

***Following
Homer's Odyssey***

***Inner Journey into
Human Nature {1}***

Art Aeon

**Art Aeon/ *Following Homer's Odyssey: Inner
Journey into Human Nature {1}* (2020)**

ISBN 9781990060014

Publisher: AEON PRESS, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
E-mail: canaeonpress@gmail.com

Printer & Distributor: Amazon.com KDP Platform

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An earlier edition of this book was published in 2015
by Aeon Press, Canada, under the title:
Homer and Odysseus.

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*Printed and distributed by Amazon.com KDP platform.

Inner Journey into Human Nature

Following Homer's Odyssey

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

Human Causes of the Trojan War

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War
by Nestor and Odysseus*

Book 4: *Helen's Crucial Revelations
at her Death*

Awakening to One's Conscience

Book 5: *Pilgrimage of Penelope and
Odysseus to the Ruins of Troy*

Book 6: *Dawn of a New Era: Helenus,
Andromache, Aethon, and Ganymede*

Book 7: *Inner Awakening of Odysseus,
Penelope, and Homer-Outis*

Synopsis

Following Homer's Odyssey: Inner Journey into Human Nature {1} by Art Aeon

The present work is a fictional narrative poem in the tercet stanzas. It imagines a numinous dream of the character *Homer-Outis* (the bard of *the Odyssey*) in which he converses with the shade of his revered ancestor, *Odysseus* (the protagonist of the *Odyssey*), on important events following his return to Ithaca. To avoid awful armed conflicts against the revolting families of the slain suitors, *Odysseus* takes a life-long exile. His devoted wise wife, *Penelope*, decides to join with *Odysseus*; they transform the fateful exile into the meaningful adventures to learn of the mystery of human nature.

This narrative poem consists of two parts:
Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*
Book 2: *The Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

Following Homer's Odyssey is the beginning part {1} of an imaginary narrative poem:
Inner Journey into Human Nature.

Prologue

Following Homer's Odyssey: Inner Journey into Human Nature {1}

The present work is a fictional narrative poem in the tercet stanza. It unfolds imaginary dialogues between the character *Homer-Outis*, the legendary ancient Greek bard of *the Odyssey*, and the character *Odysseus*, the protagonist of the *Odyssey*, on significant events following his return to Ithaca in a numinous dream of the epic poet. To avoid awful armed conflicts against the revolting families of the slain suitors, *Odysseus* takes a life-long exile. His devoted wise wife, *Penelope*, decides to join with *Odysseus*; they transform the fateful exile into the meaningful adventures to learn of the mystery of human nature.

[1] **Book1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*** is an essential introduction to how the present fictional narrative happened to begin:

(1-a) In a mysterious and numinous dream, the main character *Homer-Outis* happens to meet with a strange godlike sage in a wondrous realm.

(1-b) When the sage asks him who he is, he confesses that he is a bard from Ithaca, a descendant of the godlike hero *Odysseus*, called *Homer of the Odyssey*, or *Homer-Outis*.

(1-c) At the enthusiastic request of the excited sage, *Homer-Outis* recites a breath-taking episode from his *Odyssey*: the contest of Odysseus's bow (Book 21). He notices that the strange sage is so profoundly moved by the story that he weeps overwhelmed in ineffable emotions.

(1-d) The astonished *Homer-Outis* prostrates in awe, and entreats the godlike sage to reveal who he is. The sage reveals that he is the shade of Odysseus, the real Nobody—OUTIS.

(1-e) The character *Homer-Outis* confesses to the character *Odysseus* that his *Odyssey* was a story about the godlike hero Odysseus of the Trojan War; it was based on vague and confusing ancient legends about him, passed down by countless minstrels of the bygone eras. He wishes that *Odysseus* check his *Odyssey*, whether it has portrayed him accurately or not.

(1-f) The present imaginary narrative unfolds the sincere and soul-searching discussions on the *Odyssey* between its author *Homer-Outis* and its protagonist, *Odysseus*.

(1-g) Encouraged by the comments on his *Odyssey*, *Homer-Outis* asks *Odysseus* crucial questions about the enigmatic story of the Trojan War as related in the *Iliad* by his revered mentor, *Homer-Meles*, known as the *Homer of the Iliad*, the bard of Meles in Smyrna, Asia.

(1-h) *Homer-Outis* wishes to learn from the hero *Odysseus* what had caused the ten-year-long tragic conflict because *Homer-Meles* left unsung about the real causes nor what happened in the first nine years of the enigmatic Trojan War in his *Iliad*. But *Odysseus* is hesitant to recall his own painful and horrible experiences of the Trojan War.

(1-i) *Homer-Outis* entreats to *Odysseus* to tell him what had happened after his return to his kingdom; he wishes to sing of a proper sequel to his *Odyssey* for the generations of humanity to come.

(1-j) Eventually, *Odysseus* is persuaded by *Homer-Outis* to reveal what has happened after his return to Ithaca and his own awful experiences of the tragic Trojan War.

[2] **Book 2: *The Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*** is the beginning of an imaginary sequel to *the Odyssey*. The character *Odysseus* assumes the role of a muse who narrates it for a private audience of the character *Homer-Outis* in the present fictional narrative.

(2-a) Soon after the extermination of the suitors, Telemachus summons the Ithacans to an urgent assembly. He announces to them the return of his revered godlike father and their wise fatherly king, *Odysseus*, back to his beloved kingdom, twenty years after he left for the great war in Troy.

(2-b) Odysseus, disguised as a tramp in tattered rags, reveals himself to the astonished Ithacans in awe and wonder. He addresses to them how he returned home as a sole survivor of the devastating shipwrecks of the entire Ithacan fleets on the way sailing home after the sack of Troy.

(2-c) At this moment, a servant informs that the old gravely ill father of Odysseus, King Laertes, wishes to see his cherished son before he passes away. Immediately Odysseus and Telemachus adjourn the meeting, and they rush to see Laertes at his farmhouse.

(2-d) Wise hermit-king Laertes advises Odysseus to be aware of the anger of the slain suitors' families; he prophesizes that he must leave Ithaca for his real home: The whole world of mankind to learn human nature to the very end. Then he gently passes away in peace.

(2-e) Odysseus abdicates his throne to his son, Telemachus, acclaimed by the Assembly of the whole Ithacans as their new king, and retires with his devoted wife Penelope to the small remote farm left by Laertes.

(2-f) Telemachus learns how to govern people wisely with sincere devotion. Gradually justice, amity, peace, and prosperity are restored in Ithaca. He marries Polycastes, the graceful youngest daughter of Nestor.

(2-g) One day, massive fleets of warships surround Ithaca and threaten to invade by the enormous armed forces, organized by the angry families of the slain suitors for revenge.

(2-h) Wise brave Queen Penelope meets with King Nisus of Dulichion, the commander-in-chief of the hostile armed forces, and negotiates with the foes for a peaceful solution of the grave conflict.

She persuades them to consult with the divine judgement on this matter at the sacred shrine of Apollo in Delphi.

(2-i) The divine decree is that the suitors' families must pay to the estate of Odysseus tenfold what their sons had plundered. When they fulfil it, then Odysseus must leave his home for a life-long exile.

(2-j) Odysseus accepts the divine verdict as the just punishment of his wrong overdoing in killing all suitors. Penelope is firmly determined to join with Odysseus in his life-long exile.

(2-k) In due time, Odysseus and Penelope leave Ithaca and sail to visit their revered old wise friend, King Nestor in Pylos.

(2-l) But Odysseus steers his ship to Dulichion on the way to Pylos. He and his wife meet with King Nisus and other hostile families of the suitors; he reconciles with his foes in person for peace.

(2-m) Eventually, Odysseus and Penelope sail carefree across the vast open sea, embarking new adventurous and exciting quests to learn the mystery of human nature; the ship of their common destiny sails through the enchanting night to greet a beauteous dawn of new hopes in their deep conjugal love.

Book 1

Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

‘Of the War in Troy, Muse, you have inspired
our hearts to sing: how valiantly
many heroes fought to attain 1-3
ageless fame, and perished; how gravely gods
intruded in man’s affairs, unfolding
fateful dire tragedies. 1-6

And how the astute man of resourceful
wits came home safe, at last, after
he had sacked splendid Troy. 1-9

Long, harsh woes he suffered at violent seas,
striving to bring his comrades back
home, and to save his life. 1-12

He met various strangers in alien lands;
He learned their diverse minds to find
who he was in himself. 1-15

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

I exalt your eloquent songs of our past
heroic era. Now prevail bleak,
dark ages, suffocating 1-18
our inane minds in utter ignorance.
Sing in me, o Muse, things vital
to revive our spirit.’ 1-21

*Thus prays an ancient bard, chanting in deep,
earnest voice rapt in a trance. Amid scrolls
of unfinished epics 1-24*

*he falls asleep. In a dream, he finds himself
sailing at sea aboard a strange boat:
It steers itself to reach 1-27*

*its mysterious destination: an unknown
isle looms amid vast sea in the lucent
glow of the rising sun. 1-30*

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

*The boat alights on a cove. Elated in wonder,
the bard strolls carefree along vibrant
shores of the ethereal realm.* 1-33

*A godlike sage appears from mystic woods:
‘Welcome stranger,’ gently he greets,
‘speak to me who you are.* 1-36

*Whither have you come, and for what purpose?’
‘I am a humble minstrel, born
in the sea-girt Ithaca.* 1-39

*Since my early youth, I have wandered all
over the Hellas, singing what muses
inspire me in my heart.* 1-42

*I cannot recall,’ says the bard, ‘how it
happened for me to ramble here
like in a wondrous dream.’* 1-45

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

‘A bard from Ithaca!’ *exclaims the sage,*
‘I respect bards inspired by muses
more than powerful lords. 1-48

Tell me, dear bard, your name and parentage.’
‘In the immemorial era
of our godlike heroes, 1-51

wise Odysseus, they say, was my foremost
forefather. My real name is Outis,
but they call me Homer 1-54

of Ithaca, or Homer of *the Odyssey*,
or just Homer,’ *says the bard.* ‘What?
An offspring of Odysseus! 1-57

My dear bard, Outis, why they don’t call you
by your real name?’ *asks the sage,*
beaming warm gentle smiles. 1-60

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

‘They say that *Outis* is not a real name,’
says the bard, ‘but a trick used by wily
Odysseus.’ ‘I see. Well then 1-63
why are you called *Homer of the Odyssey*?’
asks the sage. ‘Because I have brought
together various ancient 1-66
legends about the adventurous homecoming
of brave, resourceful Odysseus
with his comrades-in-arms 1-69
after they sacked powerful, splendid Troy,
into an epic, called *the Odyssey*.’
‘How much I wish to hear,’ 1-72
exclaims the sage with eager enthusiasm,
‘you sing it for me!’ ‘Which episodes
from the long *Odyssey* 1-75

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

would you like to hear me sing?’ *asks the bard.*

‘Please choose whichever you deem to
be the most important 1-78
and critical episode that has moved you
as well as your audiences,’ *says*
the sage in excitement. 1-81

The bard prays to muses for inspiration.
Then he gently begins to chant
in a deep, sonorous voice: 1-84

‘In the first night at his dear home after
twenty years of harsh wanderings,
long-suffering Odysseus 1-87
lay on the ground in the entrance hall of
his palace disguised in tattered rags,
as if he were a tramp 1-90

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

begging for food and shelter. Throughout the long,
tense, anxious, sleepless night, he tossed
himself torn in anguishes, 1-93

debating how he could overcome single-handed
the whole multitude of the rash,
insolent, young suitors. 1-96

The breathtaking sight of his beloved wife,
Queen Penelope, lamenting for
her long-missing husband 1-99

in faithful, heartfelt love—how deep she moved
him; breaking yet warming his painful
longing heart in cool pretense 1-102

of a stranger in disguise! It was to see
Penelope, to live with her,
and to die in her loving 1-105

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

bosom that he had swum across perilous seas,
overcoming fierce tempests of gods
and seductive temptations 1-108
of goddesses; but he had to conceal
who he was, eating out his heart
in torment, until that 1-111
triumphant hour he would succeed in purging
the suitors from his house. Dawn rose
on her golden throne. From 1-114
her lofty chamber Queen Penelope came
down with her maids to the Great Hall,
where all her suitors had 1-117
gathered to revel. Holding the Odysseus's
stark bow in her arm, the queen spoke:
"Hear me, my brazen suitors!" 1-120

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

*You have plundered our house to feast and drink,
while King Odysseus is absent—
gone so long. Your pretentious* 1-123
*excuse has been your zest to win my heart
to be your bride. Hence, I challenge you
to win me, gallant suitors:* 1-126
*I declare a fair contest for that prize.
Before you, I set this great bow
of mighty King Odysseus.* 1-129
*In his time, my dear husband would line up
twelve axe-heads at intervals like
a ship's ribbing, then he'd* 1-132
*back away a long way off, and he could whip
an arrow clean through all twelve. Now,
I impose this contest* 1-135

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

*on you. The one who easily strings this bow
and shoots through all twelve axes, I shall
marry whoever he* 1-138

*may be, forsaking this great gracious house
of my true love, filled with our cherished
blissful memories; I shall* 1-141

always remember it even in my dream.”

This sudden stern ultimatum
of Queen Penelope 1-144

stunned all—the blatant suitors, Telemachus,
even Odysseus disguised as
a foreign tramp; he trembled 1-147

in awe and taut thrills of an unexpected hope
to seize his lethal bow, and triumph
over the vast multitude 1-150

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

of rash vile suitors of his faithful wife.
Her loyal swineherd, Eumaeus
moved in tears, set out the old 1-153
bow of King Odysseus and iron axes
for the contest. “*Up to challenge,*
my friends!” said Antinous, 1-156
the arrogant ringleader of suitors:
“*One man after another, from the left*
to the right, starting from where 1-159
we used to dip our wine.” The first suitor
up was Leodes, a seer who loathed
the misdeeds of suitors. 1-162
Picking up the bow, he stood at the threshold
and strove to string the sturdy bow, but
failed to bend it; he tugged 1-165

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

hard the string, but his weak hands went slack.
In pain and anguish, he gave up,
saying, “*Friends, I can’t bend it.*” 1-168
*Try it, next man. Here is a bow to break
the heart and spirit of the best
contenders; better to be* 1-171
*dead than live on, never winning the prize
who tempts us all, ever in pursuit
burning with anxious vain* 1-174
*expectations. Anyone who aches to marry
Queen Penelope, the wife of
Odysseus, let him pit* 1-177
*himself against this fatal bow; he will see
the very truth!”* With those words Leodes
thrust the bow aside, tilting 1-180

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

it up against the massive wooden door, with
one arrow aslant across the bow's horn.

But rash Antinous scolded 1-183

the failed seer: "*Leodes, what useless nonsense
you prattle! You were not born to string
that bow or let the arrow*

1-186

*fly to hit its mark. But we have champions
in our ranks who can and will do.*"

Now, strong Eurymachus, 1-189

a leading suitor, picked up the bow; he
turned it over a blazing fire to soften
the stiff, stubborn bow; but

1-192

even so, he failed in stringing the great bow.
"*Curse this day!*" cried he out, "*what shame
I feel, not for myself alone,*

1-195

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*and not only I lose the bride. It is less
the marriage that mortifies me now—
'tis galling, too, but there are* 1-198
*lots of fair women left for us to choose
in great Achaea. No, the worst
thing that breaks my heart is* 1-201
*the utter disgrace that we are too weak
even to hitch the string over his bow:
Shame to ring to men to come.”* 1-204
*“Eurymachus,” said sly Antinous, “come
to yourself; it will never come
to what you fear. Today* 1-207
*is a feast day in honour of the Archer
god. Let us set the bow aside. Rest
easy today. Tomorrow* 1-210

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

*in the early morning, we will burn goat's thighs
to Apollo first, then try the bow,
and finish off the contest."*

1-213

He appealed to the dismayed suitors; they
tipped libations for the god and drank
their fill. Then long-suffering

1-216

Odysseus spoke: "*My lords, contenders for
Queen Penelope, allow me
to speak out what passion*

1-219

*in me moves. I put it to Eurymachus
above all and you, brilliant wise
Antinous, who spoke your good*

1-222

*Counsel. For today, give the bow a rest.
Leave it to the god: Apollo
will give power tomorrow*

1-225

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

*to whom he wills; for the moment, please let
me try the bow, right now, so I may
amuse you all, trying* 1-228

*my hands. Is my old strength still alive inside
these limbs? Or has my long, harsh roaming
destroyed it?” “Not a shred* 1-231

*of sense in your head, you, insolent tramp!”
shouted Antinous with rage; “the strong
wine has engulfed your wits* 1-234

*to rave. See what evil, good wine can do
to whoever gulps it down beyond
his limit. I promise you* 1-237

*no end of dire torments, if you dare to touch
that bow; drink our wine in thanks, but hold
your tongue. Don’t dare to contend* 1-240

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

*with us, princely lords!” “Antinous!” stepped in
the virtuous Queen Penelope
in indignation, “how* 1-243
*rude and wrong to look down whatever guest
Telemachus welcomes to his house.
Do you really fear that,* 1-246
*if this stranger happens to string the Odysseus’s
great bow, he will take me home as
his bride? He never dreamed* 1-249
*of such a thing, I’m sure, unless he is
very Odysseus himself!” Then dismayed
Eurymachus answered her:* 1-252
*“Queen Penelope, it is unthinkable
that this tramp will marry you. But
we do recoil at the mean* 1-255

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

gossips people will mutter: ““Look at these
weaklings courting the great brave King
Odysseus’s wife; they couldn’t 1-258
even string his bow. But here came this strange
tramp, drifting out of the blue; he
strung the great bow with ease, 1-261
and shot through all twelve axes!”” *Such terrible
gossips will fly. We will hang our heads
in horrible shame.*” “Shame,
Eurymachus?” rebuked Queen Penelope
in a stern voice, “*how can you hope for
a good repute, while you 1-267
have plundered and devoured your king’s estates
for so many years? Why hang your proud heads
in shame over a trifle, now?*” 1-270

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

*This stranger looks a sturdy resourceful man:
He claims to be of noble blood.
Give him the bow, now; let us* 1-273
*have it out! If Apollo grants him glory
to string the bow, I will dress him
in handsome clothes, give him* 1-276
*good sharp swords and lances to fight off men,
and send him off, wherever his heart
desires.” “Mother,” broke in* 1-279
*Telemachus, “as to my father’s bow,
who may handle it or not, none here
has more authority than* 1-282
*I do. No one will force or thwart my will,
even if I decided to give
this bow to our guest as* 1-285

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

a gift outright to carry off himself.
So mother, go back to your quarters.
Please tend to your own tasks: 1-288
The distaff and the loom, keeping your women
working hard as well. As for the bow,
men will see to that now; 1-291
I, most of all. I hold the reins of power
in this house.” In wonder, Penelope
gazed at her wise, valiant son, 1-294
and withdrew to her inner chamber. At last,
the bow was handed to the very hands
of its good old master. 1-297
Trembling in thrills and thanks, Odysseus
grasped the decisive weapon for
his victory; like a bard 1-300

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

skilled at lyre and song who strains a string
to a new peg with ease, he strung
his mighty old bow with ease

1-303

of a virtuoso. He plucked the string to test
its pitch; it sang out clear and sharp
as a sweet swallow's song.

1-306

In the hushed hall, it smote the rash suitors
in horror, their fearful hearts fainting
in shock. He snatched an arrow.

1-309

The rest of numerous arrows still bristled
in the quiver, soon to be tasted
wholly by the insolent

1-312

suitors, revelling there. He drew the string
and the butt of the arrow, aiming at
the target, then let it fly—

1-315

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

the arrow flashed clean from the twanging bow
through all sockets of the twelve axe-heads!’

Here halts the bard his chanting 1-318

*as he sees tears streaming down the noble
visage of the deeply moved sage.*

‘Why are you weeping so 1-321

heartbroken, noble sage? Were you a good
friend or close kin of the doomed
suitors, justly punished 1-324

by resourceful Odysseus on that day
of decisive judgment?’ ‘I marvel
at how vividly you 1-327

have imagined such a breathtaking event,’
says the elated sage, ‘and sing it
in such a spellbinding 1-330

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

wondrous song. Somehow you are able to
render your imagined *Odysseus*
with such a sublime art, 1-333
as if you would have suffered his eventful
life as your own living experiences!’
‘What? Who are you? You must 1-336
be a god in disguise of man!’ ‘Once a man,’
says the sage, ‘but do not ask who
I was, nor what I did, 1-339
lest you portray me a sly impostor.’
‘Nothing of you I know;’ *says the bard*
trembling in awe, ‘how 1-342
could I portray you hidden in deep mystery?’
‘Poets can create fancies as if
they were real facts. You have 1-345

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

 sung of Odysseus,’ *says the sage*, ‘but how
could one confirm what you have sung
about him is real, or just
 your fanciful imaginations?’ *Elated in awe*
Homer-Outis prostrates humbly
and exclaims: ‘O, be thou
 the noble spirit of godlike Odysseus!
Forgive all vain paltry follies
of humble minstrels; we
 sing at the command of powerful lords
and the multitude of common
people. Whatever they
 desire to hear, we try to exalt it
in songs with sacred names of muses.’
The sage gently raises the bard,

1-348
1-351
1-354
1-357
1-360

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

and embraces him in warm fatherly love:

‘O my dear offspring, Homer-Outis!

I am the shade of real

1-363

Outis, Son of Pain—Odysseus himself!’

says the mystic sage in solemnity.

‘O Odysseus, my dear

1-366

revered great forefather! Please inspire me
to sing of things true. I have toiled

to set myself free from

1-369

forging artful fables, but all in vain.

I implore you to reveal to me

what happened after you

1-372

had brought justice to Ithaca.’ ‘None
can know the ultimate truth,’ *says*

Odysseus, ‘as our mind

1-375

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

makes up things, and forgets facts all the time;
 I remember things not as they were,
 but as what I think they
 must have been.’ ‘They are the most meaningful
 things for me to learn,’ *says Outis*,
 ‘and keep them in songs for
 generations of humanity to come. Please
 tell me how you got along with your wife
 and your son after such
 a long absence. How did you manage
 bitter resentments of the slain
 suitors’ families who
 could revolt against you for violent revenge?
 How did the Ithacans receive you,
 who had come back home as

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

a sole survivor from the long, bloody War
far away in Troy, losing their dear
sons, husbands, and fathers 1-393

who had bravely followed you to the War?
Did you see your old comrades-in-arms
such as Nestor, Menelaus, 1-396

or Diomedes after your return? Be
my true muse, inspiring me to sing
of the real Odysseus!' 1-399

Thus pleads Outis with passionate enthusiasm.
Beaming subtle smile, Odysseus says:

'My dear Outis, you are, 1-402

I say, a tactful supreme bard: you know
the delicate art of how to borrow
others' tongues to tell what 1-405

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

you want to say as if it were all theirs.
Willingly I accept your challenge!
But before I begin 1-408
to unfold my story, I would like to hear
the gist of your whole *Odyssey*,
to be sure that it tells 1-411
about me, not of your fanciful imposter.’
‘Please check the validity of my story,’
says Outis in earnest, 1-414
‘as I have culled it from many diverse legends,
coming down to us by words of mouth
since time immemorial.’ 1-417
‘Begin from where you will,’ *says Odysseus,*
‘I am eager to hear what you sing.’
‘After the sack of Troy,’ 1-420

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

starts Outis to tell the gist of his tale,
‘the hero of *Odyssey* sailed home
with his comrades-in-arms. 1-423

When they came to Ismarus, they attacked
the wealthy port of Cicones; they killed
the men, but women and 1-426

rich plunders, they hauled away to stow on ships.
The hero urged his crews to run
and set sail, but they did not 1-429

listened; there were too much wine to drink, and
too many longhorn cattle and fat sheep
shambling free along the beach 1-432

to feast on. In the meanwhile, the Cicones
reinforced their troops, and beat down
and expelled their pirates. 1-435

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From there they sailed on, glad to escape death
yet sick at heart for their companions,
killed by the fierce Cicones. 1-438

Soon his fleet suffered blasting wild tempests
at sea. Howling demonic gales
shrouded over in thunderheads 1-441

their ships, plunging headlong. The sails were slashed
to rags by storms. Cringing at death,
they pulled all their power 1-444

to row their ships to the nearest shoreline.
For many days they drifted astray on harsh
unknown seas in dire despairs. 1-447

His drifting fleet wandered to a strange land,
where people lived on the lush lotus,
tasty sweet fruits and flowers.’ 1-450

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‘I remember the Lotus-eaters;’ *says*
Odysseus, ‘they were placid nice
people who gave us free 1-453
the honey-sweet fruits; but whoever tasted
them became only to wish to stay
there with the Lotus-eaters, 1-456
grazing freely on lotus, forgetting
all heartrending affairs of our world.’
‘It must be the fabled 1-459
Land of Leisure. Why did you not stay there,
and relish a good life in leisure?’
asks Outis. ‘My heart urged me,’ 1-462
says Odysseus, ‘to return to our homeland
at all costs. I forced my comrades
to embark on homecoming. 1-465

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We sailed on risky seas to reach our dear home.'

'Next, your fleets wandered to the land
of Cyclops, did you not?' 1-468

'Ah, yes, we did on that unlucky day!' *says*
Odysseus, 'the gruesome memory
of what the monstrous brute 1-471

did to us makes me shudder in horrors.'
'Are you still proud that you have blinded
the giant lawless Cyclops?' 1-474

'No! I repent that my haughty curiosity,'
says Odysseus, 'forfeited the lives
of my loyal comrades, 1-477

and I was punished by long, harsh wanderings.
Let's move on to milder episodes.'

'Very well, you enjoyed ease 1-480

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and luxury,’ *says Outis*, ‘enthralled by
the bewitching queen of Aeaea,
magic Circe, for a year.’ 1-483

‘Yes, Circe was a fair, gracious hostess,
who kindly soothed our bone-tired husks
and grievous seething hearts. 1-486

Just before we came to her magic island,
we suffered awful calamities
at the secluded harbour 1-489

of Laestrygonians: awful giant cannibals.
They destroyed all our fleets, save my ship,
and devoured our comrades. 1-492

Circe provided us with whatever we
needed to recover our courage,
but she never tried to 1-495

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detain us to serve her selfish desires.
When my loyal comrades-in-arms
awoke me from the year-long 1-498
lull of ease at Circe's comfortable
bosom, I professed her our wish
to leave for our homeland. 1-501
Willingly, she helped me set up my courses
with her divine foresight.' 'What things
did Circe foretell you?' 1-504
asks Outis. 'She warned me that Poseidon
wanted to punish me as I had blinded
his son, Cyclops Polyphemus. 1-507
Even so we might reach Ithaca safe,
after bearing up perilous,
severe, and harsh trials 1-510

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such as the temptation to hear thrilling
sweet songs of enticing Sirens,
the stealthy attack of 1-513
the yelping horror, Scylla, and the deadly
convulsion of awful Charybdis,
if we would leave intact 1-516
the Helios' cattle, grazing at Thrinacia.
But if we harm them, then my men
and the ship will be destroyed. 1-519
Even if I escape death, I will come home
late as a broken man in despair
to find terrible troubles 1-522
at my home: a massive mob of arrogant
suitors devour my estates, courting
my wife,' says *Odysseus*. 1-525

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‘Yes, indeed, each one of the grim warnings
foretold by Circe,’ says *Outis*,
‘came out to be all true 1-528
in my epic, *the Odyssey*. When they sailed
close to the island of Sirens,
the hero put beeswax 1-531
to the ears of all his shipmates as told
by Circe so that none of them
could hear the Sirens’ sweet, 1-534
enticing, and spellbinding songs that would
transfix any man to fall into
lethal traps. Hence they avoided 1-537
safely the sly alluring temptations
of attractive Sirens. Then they
came to a terrible 1-540

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perilous strait. They saw thick smokes and heavy
breakers, and heard booming thunders.

While they struggled to pass 1-543

the deadly bottleneck between horrible
Scylla and convulsing Charybdis,

suddenly Scylla snatched 1-546

six-strong crews from their ship; they struggled,
gasping as Scylla swung them up,

and gulped them raw; they screamed 1-549

and tossed their arms, forlorn in that gruesome
sufferings.' 'Yes, it was the worst

awful sight I had to 1-552

witness,' *says Odysseus*, 'such dire memories
wrench my aching heart even now.'

'After the harsh trial, 1-555

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they sailed to the lush green island of the Sun,
where Helios kept his fine cattle
and flocks of purebred sheep,' 1-558

says *Outis*. 'Ah, Thrinacia! In spite of
its pastoral abundance and beauty,'
says *Odysseus*, 'it was 1-561

the fatal place of our doom! All my shipmates
revolted against me in bold mutiny.

They disobeyed my stern 1-564

order not to harm any cattle of Helios,
grazing freely in that lush field.

I had revealed to them 1-567

the grave danger of our utter destruction,
foretold to me by the intelligent
goddess Circe. Despite 1-570

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of their awareness of the dreadful peril,
however, they dared to ignore it,
and they slaughtered Helios's

1-573

cattle, and feasted on them as hunger racked
their starved bellies, while I was overcome
by an irresistible sleep.'

1-576

'Your recollection confirms what I've sung
in my *Odyssey*;' says *Outis*,

'They sailed off Thrinacia

1-579

to the wide-open sea, at last. Suddenly
overpowering squalls blasted and tore
down the mast, toppling

1-582

into the stern. Then the ship was hit by
a devastating thunderbolt.

The shattered ship sank, and

1-585

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all his shipmates were cut short their journey
home forever, except the hero;
He lashed the mast and keel, 1-588
and built a makeshift raft; he drifted forlornly
in harsh perils and dire despairs
for many days at the wild sea. 1-591
At last he was cast upon Ogygia,
a hidden island amid sea—home
of the subtle nymph with 1-594
charming braids, called Calypso. She took in
the forlorn man, and fell in love
with the helpless captive.’ 1-597
‘Ah, my seven-long years of captivity
under the enthralling spell of
subtle warm Calypso!’ 1-600

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sighs Odysseus, ‘in the long nights, I had
to sleep with her on the cozy bed
in her large arching cave— 1-603
unwilling mortal allured by ardent
goddess, all too willing to make
love with him. But during 1-606
all my days of tedious captivity,
I sat alone on rugged hard rocks
and bare beaches, eating out 1-609
my sad heart with sigh, sob, groan and anguish,
and gazing out over the barren sea
through blinding tears in despairs.’ 1-612
‘But didn’t Calypso love you,’ *asks Outis*,
‘with her faithful heart? She even vowed
to make you immortal, 1-615

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if you agreed to be her husband, didn't she?'
'Yes, it was all true. But I wanted,'
says Odysseus in solemn 1-618
stance, 'to remain as who I've been: a man
who is true to his conscience and fate.
Calypso said to me: 1-621
"If you only knew what pains are fated to you
before you might reach your native shore,
you would preside in our house 1-624
with me and be immortal. Much as you
long to see your wife, the one you
pine for all your days, and yet 1-627
I might claim to be nothing less than she;
Is it right, you think, for a mortal
woman to dare to rival 1-630

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*an immortal goddess in beauty or
wisdom?” I replied to her in earnest:
“Well I know, great goddess, 1-633
that my wife Penelope falls far short
of you, your beauty and stature.
She is mortal; but you— 1-636
you never age or die. Nevertheless,
I long to return to my own
old sweet family in 1-639
my native homeland, and meet with the end
of my eventful hard life in peace
among my beloved good friends. 1-642
Please grant me to return to my own home.
If a god wrecks me on stormy seas,
again, I will bear it too, 1-645*

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*with a humble heart, tempered to endure.
Much have I suffered, toiled long and
hard in fierce wars and storms.”* 1-648

Somehow Calypso conceded to cede me,
either moved by my earnest pleas
or gods’ decree on my fate. 1-651

She helped me build a sturdy raft, provided
me with plenty of foods and supplies,
and sent me off, at last.’ 1-654

‘Thus set free from the long captivity
by the enthralling Calypso,’
says Outis, ‘the hero 1-657

of my *Odyssey* steered the slender raft,
built and rigged by himself, and sailed
at the vast sea, elated with 1-660

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high spirit, breathing in his exalted freedom.
For seventeen days he sailed, making
headway. At long last, shadowy 1-663
mountains loomed afar: the Phaeacians' island
emerging over the vast misty sea
like a fabulous shield. 1-666
Suddenly, terrible tempests upset
his bold voyage; massive billows
crashed down and thrashed his head. 1-669
He was thrown off from the torn spinning raft
by brawling gales struck in full force.
He went under surging waves; 1-672
But he fought his way to the surface, spewing
bitter brine; half-drowned as he was,
yet he did not lose his will 1-675

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and skills for survival. For three days and nights,
he swam amid the harsh sea of death
to reach the firm land of life. 1-678

At last, he swam to sandy shores at a river's
mouth. He kissed the good dry ground in
heartfelt thanks. Deathly waves 1-681

of exhaustion overwhelmed him; he lay on
dead leaves and swift, deep sleep released
him from his dire pains and woes. 1-684

When the hero awoke on the next bright mid-day,
he saw a flock of pretty young girls
washing clothes on riverbanks. 1-687

He crept out bushes to ask the girls for help.
A terrible sight—naked, crusted and
caked with brine as he was, 1-690

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but his dire need drove him on to speak with
the tender lovely girls. They fled
in panic to broad beaches. 1-693

But one maiden bravely kept her calm poise,
and met the hero face to face.
She was princess Nausicaa, 1-696

the youngest daughter of king Alcinous
of Phaeacia. When the hero
requested her for help, she 1-699

encouraged him to visit her palace,
and plead her mother, Queen Arete,
to be conveyed to his homeland. 1-702

The lovely thoughtful maiden bade him to
bathe in the river to cleanse himself,
and gave him fresh, clean clothes 1-705

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to put on, and follow her team at a discreet
distance. The hero obeyed her
prudent bidding with a glad heart. 1-708

King Alcinous and Queen Arete received
the stranger with royal courtesy.
They heard his dire sufferings, 1-711

and granted his earnest plea for conveyance
to his homeland over the vast sea.
In honour of their strange guest, 1-714

they held feasts and contests in various games,
dancing and singing. When the blind bard,
Demodocus, sang how 1-717

the Achaean heroes had sacked mighty Troy
after long dire struggles, the guest
could not help but weep in pang. 1-720

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At this point, King Alcinous halted the bard,
and solemnly asked his strange guest
to reveal who he was. 1-723

Eventually, the guest confessed that he was
Odysseus, son of Laertes, and
Ithaca was his dear home. 1-726

He carried out his eloquent recounting
of his ten-year-long adventures
after sacking mighty Troy 1-729

in a long breathtaking retrospective
through the night at King Alcinous's
palace. His narration 1-732

held down the whole audience spellbound in awe,
heartfelt pity, and deep respect
for his wise, intrepid, 1-735

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and resourceful spirit. The Phaeacians
bestowed generously precious gifts
to the long-suffering 1-738
hero, and conveyed him to his homeland
while he fell in a strange deep sleep.
Their fast ship lit on Phorcys, 1-741
a sheltered cove in Ithaca, at last.
The Phaeacian crew put the sleeping
hero and all his gifts 1-744
on beaches, and hurried to sail back for home.’
‘Ah, what a shock it was to me,’
says Odysseus, ‘when I 1-747
awoke from the weird deep sleep on a desolate
seashore! At first, I thought that I
was still wandering astray 1-750

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in awful nightmares. Whatever I saw
around me looked so strange, nothing like
my beloved Ithaca!

1-753

The Phaeacia seemed to be a fairyland,
and the fabulous things which seemed
to have happened to me

1-756

must be all fantasy, merely conjured up
by my sick mind. I feared that I
were back in dreary Ogygia;

1-759

Proud Calypso would scorn me as a fool.
But suddenly dense dank fogs cleared,
and I saw Mount Neriton

1-762

looming in majestic splendour. Then I
knew that I had come back, at last,
to Ithaca, my dear home!'

1-765

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‘But the prudent hero of my *Odyssey*,’
says *Outis*, ‘desisted his ardent
and long yearning to see 1-768
his beloved wife and only son at his palace
in the city; instead, disguised
as a foreign vagrant, 1-771
he went to see his old loyal swineherd,
Eumaeus, who kept his herds in
old farms remote from towns. 1-774
Eumaeus treated him kindly as an ill-
fated stranger, and told him grave perils
which threatened the royal 1-777
household of his revered long-absent master,
King Odysseus; multitudes of
arrogant suitors courted 1-780

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to marry his faithful wife, Queen Penelope,
devouring the estate of King
Odysseus. Their only heir, 1-783

young valiant prince Telemachus, ventured
to Pylos to inquire about the fate
of his long-lost father. 1-786

Cruel suitors were in hiding to ambush
his ship returning from Pylos,
and to murder Telemachus.' 1-789

'Ah, how terrible it was to hear such
urgent, imminent, dire crises!'
says Odysseus, 'I was 1-792

fighting to keep myself calm in discreet poise,
while eating out my enraged heart
in indignant agony. 1-795

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At that time, someone knocked at the door
in the late hushed night. Eumaeus opened
the locked door; a handsome 1-798
young man came in. At first sight, I knew
that he must be my beloved son,
Telemachus, whom I left 1-801
while he was an infant cuddling in
the warm bosom of his mother!’
‘Yes, it was Telemachus.’ 1-804
says Outis, ‘he evaded the suitors’ ambush,
and came to the remote farm kept
by the loyal swineherd. 1-807
He sent off Eumaeus to the palace
to impart the apprehensive
Queen Penelope that 1-810

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her beloved son had come back safe from his
bold expedition to Pylos.

While they were left alone in 1-813
the farmstead, the hero revealed to his
long-missed son who he was in truth.

The father and son 1-816
embraced each other in ineffable bliss
as if they were reunited across

the mystic abyss between 1-819

the dead and the quick. When their excitements
calmed down, the prudent father and
his valiant son plotted how 1-822

to exterminate the insolent suitors from
their palace; disguised as a piteous
hapless beggar leaning 1-825

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on a crooked cane, the hero came back to
his palace after twenty years
of heartsick wanderings. 1-828

In humility, he begged for food and drink
from each suitor who devoured his
estates in his palace. 1-831

Their ringleader, vicious Antinous insulted
the hero and hit him with footstool.
When wise Queen Penelope 1-834

heard the outrageous incident, she told
her swineherd to bring the beggar
to her so that she would 1-837

converse with him.’ ‘After twenty years of
harsh suffering,’ *says Odysseus*,
‘I sat by my beloved wife 1-840

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who grieved for her long-lost husband; she probed
me to tell her who I was and
what I knew of her husband. 1-843

It broke my searing heart to tell her lies
to conceal myself from my long-
missed wife as if I were 1-846

a foreign tramp. How tenderly she confided
her dire sufferings and anguishes
to the strange beggar, as if 1-849

she knew who I was in truth; she told me
her audacious plan to hold
a crucial fair contest 1-852

for the bow of Odysseus, next day; whoever
could string the bow with ease and shoot
an arrow clean through all 1-855

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twelve axes as King Odysseus used to do,
she would marry him, forsaking
her gracious house to which 1-858
she came as a young, happy and faithful bride.’
‘The hero of my story obtained,’
says Outis, ‘his old bow— 1-861
the crucial weapon to defeat his foes
as the consequence of the just
contest for the bow, set for 1-864
the trial by wise brave Queen Penelope.
First, he shot down vile Antinous,
and revealed that he was 1-867
King Odysseus returned from Troy. Awful
terrors gripped suitors, trembling
in the panic of dark death. 1-870

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Only Eurymachus restored his sense and pleaded:
“If you are truly King Odysseus,
returned home at last, you 1-873
are right to accuse us of what we have done:
So much reckless outrage here in
your palace, so much damage 1-876
on your estate. But here lies Antinous dead.
He incited it all and drove us
to crimes. His ambition 1-879
was to lord over Ithaca as a king.
He had lain in wait for your son
to cut him down. But now 1-882
he got his punishment by his quick death
he deserved. We beg for your mercy.
We are your own people. 1-885

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*Later we will repay your costs, covering
all we ate and drank in your halls,
and will pay full measure* 1-888

*until we melt your heart. Before we have
settled, who could blame you for your rage?"*

But the hero spoke in 1-891

stern indignation: "No, Eurymachus!
Not even if you paid me all that
could pour in from the world's 1-894

end—no, not even then I would stay my hands
from slaughter till all you suitors
had paid for your vile crimes 1-897

by death!" Eventually, the furious
hero exterminated the suitors
with the help of his son 1-900

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and two old servants. In spite of his bold
heroic triumph over the suitors,
however, prudent Queen 1-903

Penelope did not acknowledge the stranger
as her beloved husband as yet;
She tested him to reveal 1-906

the secret of their marriage-bed, putting
her husband to the proof. The hero
blazed up in stern fury, 1-909

and lashed out at his faithful wife: “*So hard,
strange woman—your words, they cut me
in the core!*” Then he gave proof 1-912

of their private secret. Finally, she dissolved
in tears of bliss, rushed to him, and
cried out deep from her heart: 1-915

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*“Odysseus, my beloved husband! Don’t flare
up at me, now—not you, the most
understanding man alive!*

1-918

*It was the gods who grudged us both a life
in each other’s arm from the heady zest
of youth to the stoop old age.*

1-921

*In my heart of hearts, I always cringed with
fearsome fraud might come and beguile me.
This world is full of the sort;*

1-924

*Recall Helen—would she have sported so in
a stranger’s bed, if she had dreamed
that Achaea’s sons were doomed*

1-927

*to wage war, and die to bring her back home?
But now, since you proved the secret
of our bed, you’ve conquered*

1-930

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my heart, my hard heart, at last!” The more she
spoke, the deeper she moved the hero.

He wept as he embraced 1-933

his beloved wife, the soul of loyalty.

The husband and wife, once they had
fulfilled their sacred deep 1-936

bliss of love, delighted in sharing each
other’s stories: Penelope told dire
woes she had borne at home. 1-939

And the hero told his beloved wise wife
of all his hard adventures. She
listened with her warm heart. 1-942

This is a plain gist of my *Odyssey*.
Please tell me, godlike Odysseus,
whether I’ve portrayed you 1-945

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appropriately, or not, from the old legends
of our by-gone heroic era.’

Here ends Homer-Outis

1-948

a terse summing up of his magnificent epic.

‘You are a sublime bard, my dear

Outis!’ *says Odysseus,*

1-951

‘You’ve sung of me far better than I could.’

‘Ah, I forgot,’ *says Outis,* ‘to tell

about the hero’s strange visit

1-954

to the netherworld!’ ‘What? Why did your hero
visit the Hades?’ *asks Odysseus*

in perplexity. ‘Didn’t you

1-957

venture to the realm of the dead to inquire

Tiresias what you must do to come

back safe to your home?’ *asks*

1-960

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Outis. ‘No, my dear fanciful bard, I
have never met Tiresias alive
or dead,’ *says Odysseus*, 1-963
bursting in cheerful laughter; ‘and yet I
am thrilled with great curiosity
to hear what the fabulous 1-966
hero of your *Odyssey* did in his bold
adventure to the mystic realm
of the dead, and how he 1-969
came back alive from there to reach his home safe.’
‘I am embarrassed,’ *says Outis*,
‘to realize that I have 1-972
included hokey glib fibs in my *Odyssey*.’
‘It is not real,’ *says Odysseus*,
‘yet you may tell something 1-975

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crucial for us to learn about the true way
of our life. I know, Outis, that
you are not such a base 1-978
minstrel who would cheat innocent people,
baiting tricky traps with glib lies
of dark era and obscure 1-981
places no one can ever know. No! What grace
you give your words in such heroic
songs, and what wise good sense 1-984
your story inspires in our minds! Please impart
to me your creative imaginations
of the esoteric realm 1-987
of the dead.’ *Thus encouraged, Outis narrates
the episode of his bold hero’s
adventure to the Hades:* 1-990

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‘The hero sailed to the outer limit
of the Great Oceans’ mystic bounds,
where endless night prevailed 1-993
in terrible darkness. He alighted on a strange
shore, and performed solemn rituals
to invoke ghosts of the dead 1-996
to appear from the depth of Erebus. The shade
of Tiresias was the first one
to speak: the seer foretold 1-999
the hero what harsh trials he must endure,
and overcome to come back home safe.
Next spoke the ghost of his dear 1-1002
mother: “*Oh, my son! What compels you to
visit, still alive, this gloom of the dead?*
It’s too hard for living 1-1005

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*eyes to see this across the dark abyss between
the quick and the dead. Is it from Troy
that you just came here, still* 1-1008
*wandering long years, not seen your dear wife
in Ithaca?” “Mother, I had to
venture down here to hear* 1-1011
*the prophecy on my hard fate from the ghost
of Tiresias. But tell me,
what made you die still young?* 1-1014
*Tell me of my father, my son and my wife,”
said the hero, weeping in grief.
“It was my longing for you,* 1-1017
*my dear son, your kind heart and wise counsel,
gentle Odysseus, that tore away
my sad life missing you.* 1-1020

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*Your father keeps to his modest farm, pining
in anguish as he bears hard old age;
His grief grows as he yearns* 1-1023
*for your uncertain return. No one has
taken over your throne: Telemachus
still holds your great estates.* 1-1026

*Penelope is still waiting for you
in your halls, suffering her life
an endless hardship like* 1-1029
*your own, wasting away the nights, and weeping
away the days for so many years,” said
the shade of Anticleia.* 1-1032

Three times the hero tried to embrace his
beloved mother, but her ghost sifted
away, dissolving like a dream. 1-1035

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In painful sorrows, he cried out to her:
*“My dear mother, will you not stay
in my arms, may we not* 1-1038
*hold each other, touch with love, and taste salty
tears’ relief, the twinge of welling tears?”*
“Alas, my dear son, the most 1-1041
miserable man alive to visit the dead!
*This is just the way of mortals
when they die: no longer* 1-1044
*sinews bind the flesh and bones together;
The fierce fire on pyre burns the body
down to ashes once life slips* 1-1047
*from the body, and the spirit, rustling,
flits away, flown like a fleeting dream.*
But you must arise to see 1-1050

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

the daylight of the living, again. Go quickly!
But remember all these strange things
you saw here so that someday 1-1053
you may tell them to your good wife at home!”
Thus saying, she gently faded away.’
‘Dear Outis,’ *interrupts* 1-1056
Odysseus, ‘your insightful imaginations
enthrall me spellbound as if I had
underwent such vivid 1-1059
heartbreaking experiences in myself right now!
Even if it isn’t real, your vivid
imaginative portrayal 1-1062
of our deep human feelings that transcend
the fathomless gulf between the quick
and the dead, is sublime. 1-1065

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

Tell me what episodes you imagined next.’
‘Lithe fabulous shades of famous
ladies,’ *says Outis*, ‘paraded 1-1068
before the resourceful hero: Tyro,
Antiope, Alcmena, Megara,
Epicaste, Chloris, Leda, 1-1071
Iphimedeia, Phaedra, Procris,
Ariadne, Clymene, Maera...’
‘Hold it, Outis. Had these 1-1074
ladies anything to do with your hero’s
homecoming?’ ‘No.’ ‘Then let us move,’
says Odysseus, ‘to those ghosts 1-1077
that impelled him how to come home safe. Did
he meet any shades of his comrades,
who had battled in Troy?’ 1-1080

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

‘Yes,’ says *Outis*, ‘Agamemnon’s ghost came;
He wailed out his treacherous murder
by his vile wife and her 1-1083
paramour, sly Aegisthus. He alerted
the hero to enter his home
in disguise as Circe 1-1086
advised you, Odysseus. Next, came the sad
ghost of Achilles; he hailed aloud:
“*O son of Laertes,* 1-1089
Odysseus, clever man of endless tactics!
What greater feat can your shrewd mind
contrive after this bold 1-1092
adventure? How did you find your way down
to this unseen realm where the senseless,
burnt-out wraiths of mortals 1-1095

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

*make their timeless prison?” “Son of Peleus,
Achilles,” said the hero, “I
had to venture here to* 1-1098
*find out how to journey home safe. I have
not yet neared Achaea: never
set foot on my homeland.* 1-1101
*My life has been endless miserable trials.
But you, Achilles, none in the world
is more blessed than you are.* 1-1104
*When you were alive, we honoured you as if
you were a god; down here, you lord it
over the dead in your power.* 1-1107
*So, grieve no more at dying young, Achilles!”
“Your glib talk, smart Odysseus,” said
Achilles’s shade, “may hearten* 1-1110

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

*the alive, but you know nothing of dying
as yet! Hear me, what once so proud
Achilles's shade says: I would* 1-1113
*rather slave on earth for another man,
some humble tenant farmer who
scrapes poor soil to keep alive,* 1-1116
than rule down here over all the senseless dead!" "
'I wonder, Outis, why you have
portrayed Achilles as 1-1119
such a cowardly base fool?' *asks Odysseus.*
'Somehow Muse deep in me says so,'
says Outis in anguish, 1-1122
'against the traditional veneration
of Achilles as our bravest
and patriotic hero. 1-1125

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

Devout followers of Meles, the elder
Homer—the bard of *the Iliad*—
accuse me for blasphemy. 1-1128

But I must sing what Muse tells in me.’ ‘Yes,
my brave Outis, you ought to sing
what you truly believe in. 1-1131

Tell me who this *Homer of Iliad* is,’
asks Odysseus in curiosity.
‘He is our supreme bard; 1-1134

His vibrant heroic epic, *the Iliad*,
has inspired me to devote my life
to follow Muse in me. 1-1137

I know not him in person: he was, they say,
from Smyrna. Aeolian sea lapped
his homeland where sacred 1-1140

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

stream of Meles glided in peace. Thence arose the first
Homer, making the place blessed with
divine songs. But in cursed

1-1143

folly, the town's men scorned such a blessing
and contrived his lot of hard, harsh
wanderings. Yet, willingly

1-1146

Meles endured his plight to sing sublime
epics, bearing his dire miseries
with humble, patient heart.

1-1149

Deep in my heart, I feel all his dire agonies
and sheer exultant ecstasies
in pursuing such noble

1-1152

enlightening life,' says *Outis with ardent*
passion. 'I revere true bards who
immortalize fleeting

1-1155

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

events into timeless songs. Did Meles
sing about the Trojan War in his
Iliad?’ says *Odysseus*. 1-1158

‘He sang of the heroes who had battled
in the Trojan War. But his *Iliad*
is not its whole chronicle. 1-1161

It begins at the final tenth year of the War;
Homer-Meles chose to focus
on the dire internal 1-1164

feud that ensued from arrogant Agamemnon’s
foul insult of proud Achilles,’
says *Outis*. ‘Please tell me,’ 1-1167

say *Odysseus* with great enthusiasm,
‘the main points of what Meles has
sung in his *Iliad* 1-1170

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

so that I may check whether they agree,
or not, with whatever I may
remember about the War.’ 1-1173

‘Your testimony will be most crucial,’
says Outis in delight, ‘for us
to see the light of truth. 1-1176

A pithy gist of his long epic may be
summed up as follows: Chryses, a priest
of Apollo in a town 1-1179

near Troy, came to the Achaean camp; he
pleaded for a ransom of his daughter,
Chryseis: she had been 1-1182

seized by the Achaean invaders when
they plundered Chryse. Agamemnon
took her as his prized slave- 1-1185

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

mistress in his tent; he refused her father's
plea and expelled the priest with threats
and insults. The hapless 1-1188
dismayed priest prayed to Apollo for help.
The god inflicted a deadly plague
to the Achaean army. 1-1191
Gravely alarmed, Achilles called a meeting
of Achaean chiefs to discuss
how to save the Achaeans 1-1194
from the calamity. When Achilles
promised to protect his safety,
the seer Calchas revealed 1-1197
that Agamemnon must return Chryseis to
her father to appease Apollo.
For the sake of his people 1-1200

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

Agamemnon reluctantly agreed to return
Chryseis, although he ranked her higher
than his wife, Clytemnestra, 1-1203
in build, mind, upbringing, and works of hands.
Didn't you escort her safely back
to her father?' 'Yes, I did 1-1206
most willingly as it was right and proper,'
says Odysseus. 'Then Agamemnon
demanded that the chiefs must 1-1209
yield their mistresses to him to compensate
his loss of Chryseis for the sake
of the safety of the whole 1-1212
Achaean army. When Achilles objected
to his demand with bold, bitter,
and upstanding complaints, 1-1215

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

Agamemnon took away Briseis, the prize slave-
mistress allotted to Achilles.

Do you confirm their feud?' 1-1218

'Yes, of course! How can I forget such vile
ugly wrangles that cost us loss
of countless lives. Nestor tried 1-1221

to mend the enmity between enraged
Achilles and arrogant Agamemnon
but in vain;' *says Odysseus* 1-1224

in dismay, 'tormented by his uncontrollable
angers, Achilles proclaimed that
he would sail back home with 1-1227

all his troops the next day. But he remained
in his camp, cutting off contacts
with us in isolation.' 1-1230

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer*

‘Did you know what Achilles had plotted while
he confined himself within his camp?’

asks Outis. ‘Tell me what

1-1233

Meles sang in his *Iliad*,’ *says Odysseus.*

‘Achilles cried like a spoiled brat
inciting his mother

1-1236

Thetis to avenge him, when she came up
to comfort him. He persuaded her
to go up to Olympus

1-1239

and plead with Zeus to help the Trojans
devastate the Achaean armies
while Achilles withdrew

1-1242

from battles: to pin the Achaean army
back to their ships, trap them around the bay,
and mow them down so that

1-1245

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

all could see how wrong and mad Agamemnon
was to disgrace mighty Achilles.

Thetis went to Olympus, 1-1248

gently clasped Zeus's knees, and entreated him
that the Achilles's wishes to be
fulfilled: grant the Trojans 1-1251

victory after victory till the Achaean
army would pay her son Achilles
back the high honour he 1-1254

deserved. Reluctantly, Zeus bowed his stern
brows to the charming nymph Thetis,
although he knew that it 1-1257

would provoke bitter protests from Hera
and Athena who hated the Trojans,'
recites Outis in tune 1-1260

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

of Meles. ‘As for the comedy of divine
affairs, so impressively imagined
by your admired bard Meles,’ 1-1263
says Odysseus in pensive mood, ‘I cannot
comment: I really know nothing
about the gods: who they are, 1-1266
what they think and feel, and how they will act.
But I can attest the grim facts:
Following the ugly 1-1269
shameful feud, the Trojans overpowered us;
They pinned our army back to our ships;
Trapped us round the bay; 1-1272
And they mowed us down. The Trojans led by
Hector were almost to burn down
our ships to cut off our life- 1-1275

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

line for returning home!’ ‘Your firm testimony
of those crucial grim facts is, indeed,
of vital importance;’ 1-1278

says Outis elated in great excitements,
‘When his good, conscientious friend
Patroclus persuaded 1-1281

Achilles to send him into battle,
leading the fresh Myrmidons troops
and wearing the Achilles’s 1-1284

armour to rescue the dire desperate
Achaean army, arrogant
Achilles agreed, vaunting: 1-1287

“Fight disaster off the ships, Patroclus,
fling yourself at the Trojans
full force before they gut 1-1290

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

*our hulls with leaping fire and tear away
the day of our return. But you must
turn back soon as you bring* 1-1293

*the light of victory to the ships. Let the rest
of them cut themselves to pieces
on the plain! I beg to gods:* 1-1296

*May not one of all these Trojans could flee
his death, nor any Achaeans either;
But only we could stride from* 1-1299

*the slaughter so that we could bring the Troy's
sacred crown of towers toppling down
around us—you and I alone!"* 1-1302

Those who claim to be the proud descendants
of Achilles have exulted that
he had been glorified 1-1305

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

in the <i>Iliad</i> as the greatest warrior and honourable patriot in our past glorious	1-1308
era of godlike heroes. The Muse in me, however, points out that Meles portrayed Achilles as	1-1311
an obsessive, selfish, over-powering, spoiled brat who was a blatant traitor, not an honest patriot,	1-1314
to the Achaean army; he betrayed his fellow comrades-in-arms to be sacrificed for the sake	1-1317
of his vile vainglory. Our real patriot was the conscientious hero Patroclus! He rescued	1-1320

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

the hopeless fearful Achaean army
at such dire critical dangers
in the Trojan War, meanwhile 1-1323
crazy, cruel Achilles exulted with
awful death throes of his fellow
comrades-in-arms.’ *Thus expounds* 1-1326
Outis what he believes in with resolute
conviction. ‘I do entirely
agree with you, my upright 1-1329
Outis! I revere Patroclus as our true
patriot who saved us with his
impeccable conscience 1-1332
and noble courage,’ *says Odysseus in*
earnest. Thus encouraged, Outis
keeps on confiding his 1-1335

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

honest views: ‘When Patroclus met his death
at a combat with Hector who
defended Troy from the surprise
attacks by the Myrmidons led by
Patroclus, suddenly the target
of Achilles’s crazy
personal hatred changed from Agamemnon
to Hector. In a weird fight against
Hector, Achilles managed
to kill him with disgraceful deceptions
of Athena so ungodly
portrayed by Meles
in *the Iliad*. Even after his unfair
slay of Hector, the mind-sick hatred
of Achilles did not

1-1338
1-1341
1-1344
1-1347
1-1350

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

abate, at all; he abused the Hector's corpse
in the morbid frenzy of hatred
like a brute. Indignant 1-1353
 gods compelled him to yield the Hector's body
for a proper burial in Troy.
The brave, noble King Priam, 1-1356
 heavy in old age and ineffable throes
of agonies, came alone to plead with
the killer of his many sons 1-1359
 for the ransom of his beloved Hector's body.
The Iliad ends with the funeral
of the true patriotic 1-1362
 defender of his country—noble Hector.
I'm deeply perplexed why Meles
chose to focus on such 1-1365

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

a wild man—Achilles—gravely sick in
mind in his *Iliad*, obscuring
other crucial heroes 1-1368
and heroines in the vast scope of the Trojan
War!’ ‘My dear poet Outis,’ *says*
Odysseus beaming subtle 1-1371
smiles, ‘how could I fathom the fanciful minds
of poets? Meles has every right,
I think, to choose whatever 1-1374
he wants to focus on in his poem.
Don’t you agree with me?’ ‘Yes, I do!
I revere Homer-Meles 1-1377
as our supreme poet who portrayed his
characters so superbly vivid
and impressive. He adapted 1-1380

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

confusing legends of the Trojan War
merely as the background on which
he depicted so masterly 1-1383
complex emotions of his characters—gods
as well as human heroes—in
his powerful epic, 1-1386
with the confusing title of *the Iliad*
as if it were about Troy. But what
Homer-Meles wrought 1-1389
is a poem about the murderous rage
of crazy bumptious Achilles
that caused grim deaths to countless 1-1392
victims, Achaeans as well as Trojans.
The more I peruse *the Iliad*,
the deeper I get confused 1-1395

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

in dire dark perplexity.’ *Thus confesses
Outis his anguished frustrations.*

‘Tell me what troubles you 1-1398

so deep,’ *says Odysseus in sympathetic
tone.* ‘I admire his overpowering

poetic feats in portraying 1-1401

Achilles as a complex character,’

says Outis, ‘but I feel utterly

lost in perceiving what 1-1404

meaningful messages Homer-Meles intended
to impart in his abstruse *Iliad*.

O my wise forefather, 1-1407

Odysseus, you have bravely fought through the long,
horrible, and cruel Trojan War.

Please relate to me 1-1410

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

the whole story of the real Trojan War as
you have experienced in your person
such that I may sing its true
account to humanity. What were the real
causes of the Trojan War? I suspect
that the alleged Helen's
elopement with Paris must be an absurd
romantic pretext made up by
the cunning Atreidae
to justify their invasion of Troy, or
an amusing hoax, conjured up
by later sly minstrels
to pander the superstitious multitudes.
I wish to know what happened in
the first nine years of the War,

1-1413
1-1416
1-1419
1-1422
1-1425

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

which were left evasively unsung by Meles
in dark enigma. You knew
Achilles in person. 1-1428

Please tell me how he met with his own death
after killing so many men in
his murderous, wild rage. 1-1431

Please relate to me how the Achaeans
managed to sack the invincible
Troy. I heard that it was 1-1434

the strategy of your brilliant brain,
not the strong arms of Patroclus,
Ajax, or Achilles, 1-1437

that brought the victory to the Achaeans.
Inspire me to sing the real account
of the whole Trojan War 1-1440

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

as you have experienced, endured, and overcome for humanity to learn its truth.'

Thus Outis entreats to 1-1443

*Odysseus with resolute determination
and ardent passion. 'There are few
things that we can really know,'* 1-1446

*says Odysseus in deep pensive voice,
'and nothing is more mysterious
and unfathomable,* 1-1449

I think, than the human minds. Who am I
to tell the true story of the awful,
complex, and confusing 1-1452

Trojan War? Yet I will try to relate
to you what I can remember
with pangs of acute pains 1-1455

Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis

and throes of agonies, to bring forth its truth
for humanity to reflect on.'

Beneath a sacred tree 1-1458

*towering high up the boundless clear sky,
Odysseus and Outis nestle*

down at ease. Resourceful 1-1461

*warrior Odysseus turns into a bard
singing from his own experiences:*

The great poet who wrought 1-1464

*the Odyssey becomes his sole unique
audience, elated to hear what*

Muse-Odysseus will impart. 1-1467

*Hence deepens this revealing dream of Homer-
Outis in his mystic inner realm
of creative imaginations.* 1-1470

Book 2

*The Exile of Odysseus
with Penelope*

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

‘You ask me to relate
how I’d fought through the Trojan War,
and striven to bear up its dire awful wakes. 2-3
Well then, what shall I tell
first, and what to save to the end?’
says Odysseus in a pensive solemn tone. 2-6
‘Sing for me first, my Muse-
Odysseus, what happened after
your eventual return to your beloved 2-9
home,’ *says Homer-Outis.*
‘Your good felicitous comedy
of Odysseus’s homecoming turned into 2-12
a bitter tragedy
of his fateful life-long exile,’
says Odysseus, grieving anew in agonies. 2-15

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

‘You, exiled for life?’ *cries*
Outis in shock, ‘how so and why?
Tell me all, bearing your heartsick anguishes 2-18
to bring dark things to light.’
‘So be it. When we purged our house
from the foul pestilence of vile suitors, 2-21
I urged Telemachus
to send out his heralds to call
for all people of Ithaca to come 2-24
to an urgent assembly;
I wanted to proclaim my return
from Troy and resumption of my rightful 2-27
kingship of Ithaca
after twenty years of absence.
Quickly Ithacans gathered for the meeting. 2-30

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

Holding my sceptre, spear,
and great bow, prudent Telemachus
led me disguised as a strange humble tramp 2-33
to the great assembly.

*“Telemachus, why do you summon
us here, again?”* asked the old sage Aegyptius, 2-36

*“Have you an urgent news
to inform us? Are our soldiers
coming home, or enemies invading us?”* 2-39

*Who is this stranger clad
in tattered rags? Why do you bring
him with you to our solemn assembly?”* 2-42

“Hear me, dear Ithacans!”
spoke Telemachus, *“here is Odysseus,
my noble father and your fatherly king!”* 2-45

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

Stunned in awe, the people
remained speechless in hushed silence.
Eventually, the wise old seer Halitherses 2-48
broke the silence, speaking:
“Godlike resourceful Odysseus!
All has come to pass for you as I foresaw: 2-51
At last you have come home
alive alone from Troy after twenty
long years since you left us, overcoming dire 2-54
trials of the Trojan War
and sea voyages; all your comrades lost;
Yourself unrecognized in your homeland. 2-57
Speak to us, revealing
your person disguised in rags.”
Telemachus handed me my royal sceptre, 2-60

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

urging me to speak to
the astonished people in wonder.
“My dear Ithacans,” said I, “here stands your 2-63
long lost Odysseus, pleading
for your pardon and sympathy.
My brave comrades from Ithaca, joint with 2-66
other Achaean armies,
finally conquered powerful Troy
after ten years of dreadful hard combats. 2-69
We survived to cheer up
and celebrate our great victory.
But on our way home from Troy, we suffered 2-72
fatal calamities:
They perished at sea, leaving me
as a lone survivor of awful shipwrecks. 2-75

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*Bearing countless dire woes
for ten more years, I strove to find
my way through gory fights and stormy seas 2-78
to land on my beloved
homeland, our gracious Ithaca!”
“Welcome home, our godlike fatherly king,
Odysseus!” said Mentor, 2-81
my loyal friend-in-arms, “you sacked
mighty Troy, achieving the greatest glory 2-84
for all Achaeans. How
much we missed for so long your wise,
kind, and prudent reign of our Ithaca! 2-87
We plead you to restore
justice, civility, and peace.”
The whole Ithacans welcomed me in awe 2-90*

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

as if greeting their lost
dear father, miraculously comes
back to life from the unseen realm of death. 2-93

*“Hail our heroic king,
Odysseus,”* said wise Aegyptius,
“what a wondrous marvel to behold you!” 2-96

*Tell us why you’ve appeared
to us, as if you were a strange
foreign beggar? From where, how, and when did* 2-99
*you come back to your own
kingdom in such mysterious ways?”*

“The Phaeacian king, generous Alcinous, 2-102
sent me on their fast ship,”
said I, *“crossing over vast deep seas.
I landed on the cove of sacred Phorcys* 2-105

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*a few days ago. A lone
helpless stranger utterly lost
in his own country—I wandered in awe
and deep thoughts to find out
the proper way to get back home.
In a rugged pass I came across a man;
It turned out to be my old
loyal swineherd, Eumaeus.
I learned from him grave dangers at my home,
far worse than all I had
borne through lethal wars and stormy seas:
Foul plagues by vile suitors of my chaste wife,
wise, prudent Penelope.
You saw how they'd plundered our house
in such shameless insidious greed and lusts.*

2-108

2-111

2-114

2-117

2-120

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*But did you know how they
had plotted to murder Telemachus
on his way sailing back home from Pylos,* 2-123
*after braving for news
of his long-lost father afar Troy?
I thank gods for saving my beloved son* 2-126
*much more than my wasted life!”
“Arise, my brave, righteous Ithacans!”
said Mentor in indignation, “we must* 2-129
*exterminate those rash
evil suitors from our homeland.
Are they still in your palace debauching?”* 2-132
*“Still in my hall,” said I,
“but all asleep forever in death!”
Shocked in surprise, the people fell speechless* 2-135

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

for a while. Then the suitors'
families erupted in sudden
wild commotions of sorrows and angers 2-138
against me. With resolute
determination I declared
to the Assembly: "*It is my solemn* 2-141
duty as your just king
to uphold justice, keep safety,
and restore our mutual trust and amity; 2-144
From the sunrise tomorrow,
the suitors' families shall come
to my palace to take the bodies of their sons 2-147
or kin: each to his own
home in Ithaca, or ferry home
overseas by ships, with due respect and orderly 2-150

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*manners so that they can
carry out the proper burials
for their beloved sons and kin. I appoint* 2-153
*Mentor as commander
of our loyal soldiers who shall
keep order and peace within, and protect* 2-156
*Ithaca from possible
invasions from outside.” “I shall
carry out your wise and timely edicts,* 2-159
our great king Odysseus!”
said valiant Mentor. At this point
Eumaeus rushed in, and said: “*Your noble* 2-162
father, our old King Laertes,
is gravely ill. He wishes to see you
before he passes away!” Immediately I 2-165

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

ended the assembly, and
hastened myself with Telemachus
to see my father at his remote farmstead. 2-168

When we entered his old
farmhouse, my dear motherly nurse,
Eurycleia, greeted us; then I saw 2-171

Penelope, weeping
by my frail father asleep on his
plain deathbed. Searing tears welled up deep from 2-174
my heart, bursting with intense
ineffable emotions. At last,
my father opened his eyes and gently whispered 2-177
in a faint trembling voice:
“Where is my son, Odysseus?” “Here
I am, my dear father!” cried I, embracing 2-180

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

him with my loving heart.

Looking at me, he beamed gentle,
mysterious smiles, and whispered in a trance: 2-183

*“Welcome back to Ithaca,
my brave, upright, resourceful son!”*

*“I bore up, and overcame hard harsh trials
of bloody wars and stormy seas*

*as you had brought me up to bear,
my wise, insightful, and loving father!”* 2-186

said I, remembering
our deeply cherished memories.

*“When Nestor returned to Pylos from Troy,
he attested solemnly*

*that the splendid invincible Troy
had been succumbed only to your ingenious* 2-189

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*strategy, my Odysseus,
having withstood fierce Achaean
attacks for long hard years. Grand tasks well done, 2-198
my beloved son!” “Your good
friend, wise Nestor, and I shared with
one same mind throughout the dire Trojan war,” 2-201
said I in humility.
“Entrust Ithaca to your son:
A great whale can’t live in a small lagoon. 2-204
Be aware of the anger
of the slain suitors’ families.
Soon you must leave for your right home: the whole 2-207
world of humanity
to explore with your wise trusty wife,
learning human nature to the very end...” 2-210*

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

That was the very last breath,
my insightful wise father breathed out
to me,' says *Odysseus in a pensive mood.* 2-213

'King Laertes seems to me,'
says Outis in awe and reverence,

'a mysterious hermit-sage. How did he 2-216
bring you up as your father?
Why did he abdicate his kingship
to you, and retired as a humble farmer 2-219
who worked so diligently
on his modest farm, shunning from
complex human affairs? Why did he choose 2-222
to lead the simple life
of a hermit rather than to seek
the power and fame of an ambitious king?' 2-225

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

‘My father was a man
of sincere conscience and strong will-
power;’ *says Odysseus*, ‘he disciplined himself 2-228
to endure and overcome
hardships: through actual experiences
I learned from him to be the *Son of Pains*. 2-231
He provided me with the best
training: in martial arts, sailing,
debating, reasoning, and problem-solving. 2-234
He encouraged me to be
independent from an early age;
I visited many places as far away as Crete 2-237
and Sicily in my youth.’
‘It seems to me that your wise father,’
says Outis with admiration, ‘prepared 2-240

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

you well for your unique,
ingenious, and heroic deeds
in the Trojan War, as if he'd foreseen it! 2-243

What was his thoughtful view
about the Achaean invasion
of Troad?' 'Before I decided to join in 2-246

the Trojan campaign, I had
consulted with my prudent father
for his advice. He warned me that the war 2-249

to conquer powerful Troad
must be a highly risky and hard
task for us. But for the future of all 2-252

Achaean to prosper,
such a bold, massive expansion
of our territory might be necessary. 2-255

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

He questioned seriously
Agamemnon's ability and
integrity to lead such an audacious
and difficult campaign. 2-258

He believed that I was much better
qualified for the hard task; he hoped that
the Achaean chiefs would 2-261

eventually choose me as their supreme
commander, despite the small contingent
which Ithaca could afford 2-264

to contribute to the massive
invasion of Troad. Thus encouraged, 2-267

I asked him to resume
his kingship of Ithaca, but
he refused it,' *says Odysseus*. 'I'm puzzled 2-270

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

why King Laertes declined
your reasonable request?’ asks *Outis*.
‘He insisted that, in my absence, my queen 2-273
Penelope should rule
Ithaca,’ says *Odysseus*. ‘How did
Mentor handle the suitors’ families 2-276
when they came to your palace
to take their sons’ or kin’s bodies
for funeral? Was there any insurrection 2-279
against you?’ asks *Outis*.
‘All bodies were taken by them
in proper and orderly manners within 2-282
the same day as directed
by Mentor without any disturbance.
After thoroughly cleaning the palace, 2-285

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

Mentor came to see me
at my father's farm. When he realized
that my father had passed away, he said in tears: 2-288
 "Our King Laertes was
a unique man: hermit-sage who
transcended the pride of vain fame and the greed 2-291
of political power!"
"Thank you for your loyalty and friendship.
I embrace you, Mentor, as my true brother," 2-294
 said I deep from my heart.'
 'Please tell me what happened next in
your eventful moving life,' says *Outis*. 2-297
 'Shortly after my father's
state funeral,' says *Odysseus*,
 'serious illness overwhelmed my exhausted body; 2-300

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

It got worse each day for
a half year, despite the loving care
of my dear wife and medical treatments. 2-303

One day, wise perceptive
Penelope spoke in a tender voice:

“I feel, my beloved Odysseus, that something 2-306
grave had been troubling
your mind, which in turn weakened your
sturdy body. Let us share our pains and troubles 2-309
as well as bliss and blessings

in this fleeting life.” “I feel like
a ghost of dead Odysseus,” confessed I, 2-312

“loafing astray in a strange
isle—Ithaca, and frightening
its people with uneasy fears. You are the only 2-315

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*one, my wise beloved wife,
who keeps me alive with your true love!”*
“You are the wisest and bravest Achaean 2-318
who achieved the triumph
over Troy, returning home in glory
after long hard struggles, my Odysseus!” 2-321
said she to cheer me up.
“The cruel Trojan War taught me
utter futility of man’s vainglory: 2-324
Bitterly I regret
that I was obliged to combat
in the vile War. We killed so many innocent 2-327
Trojans, and destroyed Troy
down to desolate ruins. I also feel
guilty to have come back home as a sole 2-330

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*survivor, losing all
my comrades-in-arms who had sailed
with me to Troy. Furthermore, I repent* 2-333
*that I have killed all suitors
indiscriminately; some may be
innocent victims of my overdoing in* 2-336
upheaval of fierce fury.
*How could I rule the Ithacans
as their wise fatherly king after killing* 2-339
so many their able sons?
*I wish to abdicate my kingship
as a just punishment of my odious self!”* 2-342
Thus I confided to wise
Penelope the throes of agonies
that had been tormenting my heavy heart. 2-345

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*“I will follow you, Odysseus,
to wherever you would lead me!
I revere and admire the nobility
of your lofty conscience,”* 2-348
said Penelope, *“let us retire
to the farm of your late noble father;* 2-351
*We will lead a simple life
in peace, following his ideal
of a wise hermit-farmer. Telemachus* 2-354
*has come of age; let him
be in charge of all your estates.
I pray that the Assembly of Ithacans* 2-357
*will acclaim Telemachus
to succeed you as their new king!”*
I followed Penelope’s sensible advice 2-360

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

with loyal Mentor's able
assistance: When Telemachus was
acclaimed as the new king, Penelope 2-363
and I retired to the farm.
Gradually my health and spirit
improved by loving cares of my devoted 2-366
wife: we toiled hard on soil
with fresh zests of new life. How happy
we were to labour and rest together 2-369
in a simple pastoral
life at peace! Heartbreaking agonies
of our long wretched separation during 2-372
our heady youth gradually
melted away, and ardent hopes uplifted
our rejuvenated hearts in deep love. Our hard 2-375

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

works were rewarded with fruitful
harvests of grains; our herds of farm
animals grew steadily, replenishing 2-378
the lost stocks, devoured by
the insolent greedy suitors.
Eventually, civility and peace were restored 2-381
in Ithaca; the people
worked hard for fair prosperity.
Telemachus attained quickly sound skills 2-384
in governing people
with courage and prudence. He married
graceful lithe Polycaste, the Nestor's youngest 2-387
daughter; in due time, our
bright, handsome grandson, Arcesius,
was born, delighting our hearts with sincere thanks. 2-390

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

A sad event was the death
of my dear old nurse, Eurycleia.
In heartfelt love and heartbreaking sorrow, 2-393
we held a stately
funeral for her as if she
were my beloved mother.’ ‘Why did you pay,’ 2-396
interrupts Outis, ‘such
an unusual honour for her? Wasn’t she
a slave woman, purchased by your father?’ 2-399
‘Yes. All through her life, she
took care of us with motherly
love and devotion. Most of all, Eurycleia 2-402
opened my blind eyes to see
the true beauty of intelligent
Penelope in my passionate youth.’ 2-405

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

‘How much I love to hear
the story of your perfect match!
Please tell me,’ *says Outis with great excitements,* 2-408
‘how it happened for you
to find Penelope, and fall
in love with her. Didn’t you go to the Tyndareus’s 2-411
palace as a suitor
of his daughter, Helen?’ ‘Yes, I
went there with Eurycleia as one of 2-414
my entourage. While I was
vying with many other outstanding
contenders for Helen’s hand, she made deft, 2-417
discerning, private contacts
with the young noble ladies there.’
‘Who were your prominent rivals?’ *asks Outis.* 2-420

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

‘Menestheus from Athens,
Ajax from Salamis, Diomedes
from Argo, Idomeneus from Crete, 2-423
Patroclus from Phthia,
and many other renowned heroes
from all over the Achaea,’ *says Odysseus.* 2-426

‘How about Menelaus?’
‘His brother Agamemnon came from
Mycenae as Menelaus’s emissary; 2-429
not as a suitor, since
he had already married Helen’s
elder sister, Clytemnestra,’ *says Odysseus.* 2-432

‘I see. Now, please tell me
how Eurycleia helped you marry
graceful, wise Penelope,’ *says Outis.* 2-435

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

‘She told me that she had
met with a beautiful modest
young lady with brilliant intelligence: 2-438
Penelope, a daughter
of King Icarius who was
the younger brother of King Tyndareus. 2-441
I was curious to see
the mysterious young lady;
Tactfully, Eurycleia disguised me 2-444
as a woman so that
I could see Penelope playing
with Helen and other young noble ladies 2-447
in their cozy sheltered
courtyards. At the very first glance
of Penelope, I fell deeply in love with her. 2-450

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

Hence I told Tyndareus
that I gave up my wooing for
the coveted Helen's hand as I realized 2-453
that I could not afford
the luxury of living that Helen
might need and deserve. Then I politely 2-456
asked him to help me meet
King Icarius so that I would plead
him for the hand of his daughter, Penelope. 2-459
Icarius kindly received
me, and probed wisely to find out
what kind of man I was. Then he told me 2-462
that I must win the heart
of Penelope for her hand.
While other suitors of Helen revelled, 2-465

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

boasting their outstanding
merits at lavish daily feasts
in Tyndareus's palace, I spent quiet 2-468
time with Penelope
rapt in simple bliss of pure love.
Somehow Agamemnon was annoyed by 2-471
my absence from their feasts;
He urged Tyndareus to bring me back.
When I joined with the suitors at their feasts, 2-474
Tyndareus made a solemn
proposal, saying: "*Godlike heroes*
vying with each other for the hand 2-477
of my dear daughter Helen,
hear me what my heart urges to say:
It is extremely difficult for me 2-480

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*to choose one among you as
you are all outstanding in such
different ways; I fear that whomever* 2-483

*I may eventually choose,
it would offend the pride of other
renowned suitors and may cause dire conflicts.* 2-486

*To prevent such mishaps
I propose that all of you swear
oaths to the gods that you shall defend Helen* 2-489
and her chosen husband

*from any conflict. Unless all suitors
swear such an oath to the gods, I will not* 2-492
make my final decision.”

Then Agamemnon spoke with great
enthusiasm: “*Wise King Tyndareus! I* 2-495

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*deem your proposal
as a divine decree. I hereby
swear such an oath to all gods for myself* 2-498
*as well as on behalf
of Menelaus; we shall fight even
to death to defend Helen and her husband* 2-501
from any vile transgressors.”

Then all other suitors swore solemn
oaths to gods following the Agamemnon’s 2-504
proud lead. When it came to
my turn to swear, I announced that
I had withdrawn from wooing Helen; hence 2-507
such an oath was not proper
for me. In anger, Agamemnon
accused me as a cowardly spoiler 2-510

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

of their sacred accord,
and all other suitors persuaded
me to swear the oath. The following day 2-513
Tyndareus announced his choice:
Menelaus! All suitors were shocked
to hear it except haughty Agamemnon.’ 2-516
‘I wonder why Tyndareus
chose Menelaus,’ asks *Outis*, ‘who
didn’t even bother to come to see him. 2-519
Was Helen happy to be
married to Menelaus?’ ‘The suitors
guessed that Agamemnon manipulated 2-522
Tyndareus with bribes and threats.
As for Helen, I heard later from
Penelope that she lamented bitterly 2-525

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

when she learned her worst match.’
‘How weird Helen’s fate was—just like
Aphrodite was wedded to Hephaestus! 2-528
Did Agamemnon take
Helen with him to Mycenae
to marry her to Menelaus?’ *asks Outis.* 2-531
‘Yes. Soon after their marriage,
Helen and Menelaus moved to
Lacedaemon; they lived at Helos, before 2-534
Helen sailed away from there
to Troy with Paris,’ *says Odysseus.*
‘I wonder why Tyndareus abdicated 2-537
his throne to Menelaus,
instead of his renowned twin sons,
Castor and Polydeuces. Do you know why?’ 2-540

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

asks Outis. ‘It puzzled
me, too. I heard confusing rumours:
Shortly after Helen had left for Troy, 2-543
Castor and Polydeuces
quarrelled with their cousins, Idas
and Lynceus; somehow all four were killed 2-546
during an odd, weird fight.
Some suspected that Agamemnon
lured them with their lovers, and incited them 2-549
to compete till their deaths.
A month after their enigmatic deaths
Agamemnon came with Menelaus to see 2-552
Tyndareus in Sparta;
They were outraged that Helen had
eloped with Paris to Troy in the blatant 2-555

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

violation of the sacred
law of matrimony sanctified by
Hera, and the code of honour between 2-558
the host and the guest, imposed
by Zeus. They claimed that Zeus
and Hera sent them to urge Tyndareus 2-561
to raise a mighty united
Achaean army, and lead it
to attack, and destroy Troy as stern divine 2-564
punishment. They must bring
Helen back from Troy to obey
the solemn command of Zeus as well as 2-567
to restore the pride of
the whole Achaeans, insulted by
insolent Paris.’ ‘The Atreidae made 2-570

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

very pressing and taxing
demand,' *interrupts Outis,*
'to Tyndareus. How did he respond to them?' 2-573
 'Overwhelmed by the tragic death
of his sons and the shameful loss
of Helen, dispirited Tyndareus faltered 2-576
 in dire hapless despairs.
Then ambitious Agamemnon claimed
that Zeus had ordered him to raise armed forces, 2-579
 culled from the whole Achaea,
and lead the invincible forces
to invade and destroy Troy, and bring back 2-582
 Helen home. When helpless
Tyndareus agreed with such bold plans,
cunning ambitious Atreidae demanded him 2-585

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

to abdicate his kingdom
to Menelaus so that he could
command the army of Lacedaemon 2-588
as their new king. In dire
despairs, Tyndareus was compelled
to surrender his kingdom to Menelaus.’ 2-591
‘How enlightening to hear,’
says Outis, ‘what you have revealed;
It clarifies the perplexing confusions 2-594
I inherited from countless
unknown minstrels through bygone ages.
According to what I surmised from them, 2-597
you were initially
very reluctant to join in
the campaign against Troy. Is this a false rumour?’ 2-600

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

‘It’s true; I did not want,’
says Odysseus, ‘to be ruled by
arrogant Agamemnon who boasted that he had 2-603
been commanded by Zeus
to lead the whole Achaean armies.
I tried to ignore his urgent call to arms 2-606
pretending as if I
suffered lunacy. Agamemnon sent
his envoys to coerce me to join them; 2-609
Sly Paramedes, one
of his envoys, seized our infant son
from Penelope by force, and put me 2-612
on trial to reveal
my pretense of lunacy. As Agamemnon
accused me as an unpatriotic coward, 2-615

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

I had to prove myself
what kind of man I was in truth.’
‘Now, I see what happened. It has been 2-618
very perplexing darkly
enigma to me,’ *says Outis*,
‘how Agamemnon seized the supreme power 2-621
of the newly gathered
Achaean armies in spite of
his ineptitude.’ ‘He was an extremely 2-624
ambitious and cunning
schemer; somehow he won over Nestor
of Pylos,’ *says Odysseus*, ‘to help him 2-627
as a kingmaker by
persuading other Achaean
chieftains to join with the Atreidae to 2-630

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

conquer rich fertile Troad
as very profitable campaign
as well as to earn the glorious fame 2-633
as patriotic heroes.’
‘Was fame that enticed Achilles
to join in the Trojan War? He was too 2-636
young to be a suitor
of Helen’s hand; thus not obliged
to the oath imposed by Tyndareus,’ *says* 2-639
Outis. ‘It was Nestor
who persuaded Peleus to send
Achilles to Troy,’ *says Odysseus*, ‘to win 2-642
the fame of glorious
hero, despite the reluctance
of his divine mother, Thetis, who foresaw 2-645

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

the doom of his early death.
As for the vain oath imposed to
the suitors by Tyndareus, no one took it 2-648
seriously, even though
Agamemnon tried to invoke it,
in vain, to be obeyed by the suitors; 2-651
They felt that they'd been cheated.'
'If so, I wonder what had inspired
the huge horde of hundred thousand Achaeans,' 2-654
asks Outis, 'to join in
such an audacious campaign against
Troy?' 'It was the most exciting adventure,' 2-657
says Odysseus, 'for us to sail
across the vast seas to conquer the great
prosperous kingdom of Troad and take it over. 2-660

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

The Achaean population
outgrew their narrow strips of poor soil;
Unless we would succeed in expanding 2-663
to fertile larger regions,
we were doomed to starve in famine.
The alleged abduction of Helen by 2-666
the Trojan prince, Paris,
was a pretentious romantic
pretext for the Achaeans to launch 2-669
their most adventurous and
exciting campaign to vanquish
and colonize wealthy and powerful Troad.’ 2-672
‘Now, I see the real causes,’
exclaims Outis, ‘of the Trojan War!
Please solve for me one more puzzle; at the end 2-675

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

of Homer-Meles' *Iliad*,
Helen wept for Hector's death, saying:
"Hector, dearest to me of all my lord's 2-678
brothers! Paris—my lord
magnificent like a god—brought me
here to Troy. O, I wish I had died before 2-681
that day! But this is now
the twentieth year for me since I sailed
here, forsaking my homeland; yet never 2-684
once did I hear from you
a blame or a taunt. But if someone
else in your royal palace would curse me, 2-687
you would restrain them with
wise words and win them for me. Thus
in the same breath, I mourn for my wretched self 2-690

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*as well as for you, my great,
valiant, noble, and godlike Hector!”*

This moving confession by Helen points out 2-693

that it took ten long years

for the Achaean armies to

invade Troad since Paris had taken Helen 2-696

from Lacedaemon to Troy,

and then another ten more years

for them to sack Troy and retrieve Helen 2-699

eventually, unless Meles

was confused with timing in his

Iliad.’ ‘Yes, it took ten hectic years 2-702

for the Atreidae and Nestor,’

says Odysseus, ‘to persuade

the horde of Achaean chieftains with diverse 2-705

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

aims and interests to join
in such a bold adventurous
campaign, and to prepare for it; building 2-708
a thousand strong warships,
culling and training a hundred
thousand men to sail over hazardous seas, 2-711
and fight against the strong
Trojan army to conquer rich Troad.’
‘Now, I realize that it must have taken 2-714
long demanding efforts,’
says Outis, ‘to launch such a bold,
massive military campaign afar over the open sea. 2-717
As for the first nine years
of the ten-year-long Trojan War,
Meles left it unsung in his *Iliad*. 2-720

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

Would you please relate to me
what happened in the first nine years.’
‘It brings me dire pangs of guilt and shame to
recall what we did;’ *says* 2-723
Odysseus in anguish, ‘Agamemnon
led the massive horde of Achaean armies 2-726
to ransack peaceful towns
nestled along long seacoasts of Troad
with impressive, expert, cunning tactics, 2-729
and plundered their rich stores
of grains, herds of animals, and precious
treasures. We took their women to serve us 2-732
as captive slave-mistresses.
Agamemnon claimed that he had been
inspired by Zeus which particular Trojan 2-735

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

village to invade
at a given time, and what to take
from it at a given raid; with efficient 2-738
tactics, Agamemnon sustained
his systematic pillage of over
fifty rich towns in the easy first nine years.’ 2-741
‘I am shocked to hear,’ says
Outis, ‘that the Achaean armies
behaved like shameless pirates. I wonder 2-744
why the Trojans tolerated
such blatant, harsh, sustained abuses
by the Achaean armies for so long?’ 2-747
‘It was due to the very
basic tactics,’ says *Odysseus*,
‘of sheer overwhelming number; the huge horde 2-750

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

of fully armed Achaean
soldiers outnumbered the entire
population of each invaded Trojan town 2-753
by at least ten, and in
most cases, by thirty times. The first nine
years of the Trojan War was not a war, at all, 2-756
but brutal greedy piracy.’
‘What did happen to the pursuit
of patriotic honour, winning great fame, 2-759
and retrieval of Helen?’
asks Outis in dismay. ‘All gone
with the winds of madness; most Achaeans 2-762
exulted in becoming
proud greedy robbers of the helpless
Trojans. They worshiped Agamemnon as if 2-765

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

he were the very god who
had led the Achaean armies
to obtain the luxury of affluence 2-768
and the upstart power
over their newly oppressed people.’
Outis discerns the anguish of remorse 2-771
and shame in Odysseus.
‘I am sorry that I’ve diverted
you from relating your eventful life 2-774
after you had restored
justice, amity, and prosperity
in Ithaca. I wish to know who dared 2-777
to expel you from your
Ithaca. Why did you suffer
a terrible life-long exile?’ ‘It was 2-780

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

the harsh revenge for slain
suitors to me by their enraged
families,’ *says Odysseus*. ‘How did they 2-783
compel you to yield?’ *asks*
Outis. ‘One day in my odd dream,’
says Odysseus, ‘the ghost of Agamemnon 2-786
appeared; he upbraided me
in a stern voice: “*Wake up, Odysseus!*
You loaf at ease like an idle Lotus- 2-789
eater, forgetting who
you are; why did you exterminate
all of the young noble suitors, the best 2-792
among Achaean youths? Didn’t they
repent their youthful follies with
full reparation, begging for their life 2-795

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*at your mercy?” “Son of
Atreus,” said I, “what grave matter
urged you to visit me from the dark Hades?* 2-798

*Your ignoble murder
by the hands of your brazen wife
taught me how to return to my homeland.”* 2-801

*“Regal confidence was
my doom,” said he, “overdoing on
too much contriving is your undoing.* 2-804

*Beware swarms of warships,
sailing from your enraged neighbours:
They surround Ithaca to storm your ports* 2-807

*and sack your rich palace
like the Achaean armies destroyed
rich powerful Troy under my command.”* 2-810

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

“*What is their pretext,*” asked
I, “*for such a blatant lawless*
invasion?” “*They intend to bring justice:* 2-813
Your execution or life-long
exile as a fitting revenge
for the slain suitors. Don’t dare to defy it, 2-816
Odysseus, against your fate!”
Thus saying, the ghost disappeared.
I awoke, but the nightmare persisted in me. 2-819
Then I met tearful eyes
of my beloved wise Penelope.
“*Why do you stain your beauteous visage* 2-822
with tender tears?” asked I.
“*My Odysseus,*” said she, “*please take*
a solemn oath to gods that you shall never 2-825

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

leave me alone at home again."

"To all gods, I vow it; but why

do you ask it now? Haven't I come back to you 2-828

across vast tempestuous seas,

overcoming fierce tempers of gods

and enticing temptations of goddesses, 2-831

only to live with you

in love," said I, "and die in your

comforting, loving arms?" "I know it;" said 2-834

she, "but in a dreadful dream,

I saw you sailing far away again

to Ogygia, returning to Calypso; 2-837

She would keep you deathless

living with her." "I chose to die

with you, my dear beloved Penelope," 2-840

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

said I, *“rather than to live
endlessly without my free will.”*

At this moment, Telemachus rushed in 2-843
and said: *“The vengeful
families of the slain suitors
plotted to attack us, forging fearsome forces 2-846
ready to invade our land.”*

“Tell me the tally of their forces,”
said I calmly, *“so that we weigh their strength.” 2-849*

*“Fifty-two ships, each manned
with hundred warriors, from Dulichion;
Twenty-four warships from Same; twenty 2-852
more ships from Zacynthus,”*

said he. *“They will overwhelm us soon;
I must run to Nestor and Menelaus 2-855*

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

to get their urgent helps.
Rig a fast ship for me to sail
tonight, in secret,” said I in a grave voice. 2-858
“Hear me, wise Odysseus,”
said Penelope, “calm down your
fighting spirit, no more violent vile wars! 2-861
Let us solve this conflict
in peace; please do not inflame it
into an Ithacan War like the Trojan War. 2-864
Penelope will be
forever accused of it as
Helen has been blamed for the Trojan War.” 2-867
“I do not understand,”
said I, “what you mean, Penelope.
It was the vile suitors who had wronged us 2-870

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*like bandits of hundred
Aegisthus; seducing you, wasting
our stores, plotting to kill our only son,* 2-873
*and myself had I returned
to my kingdom in public
as Agamemnon was butchered by his wife!* 2-876
*They were justly punished
by the will of gods through my hands.
If we fight bravely, the gods will help us.* 2-879
*Most of all, how can you,
or anyone, dispel their armies
miraculously in peace as you wish?"* 2-882
*"I believe in the justice
as you do; but I do not know,"*
said Penelope, *"what judgment would gods make;* 2-885

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*As the gods never reveal
their secret plans to us directly,
let us send our envoy to Delphi to learn* 2-888
*from the revered priestess
about the divine judgment on this
crucial matter; if the gods command you* 2-891
*to fight to victory or death,
then call your old comrades-in-arms
for help. But if the gods find faults in us,* 2-894
*and demand reprisal,
then we must obey their verdict.”*
“I see your keen insight, my wise beloved 2-897
*Penelope,” said I,
“but who will protect Ithaca
from our fierce enemy’s devastating attacks,* 2-900

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*right now?” “Tell me, dear son:
Who is the commander-in-chief,”*
asked Penelope, *“of our mighty enemy?”* 2-903
“Nisus, the king of Dulichion,”
said Telemachus. *“Let me sail
to Dulichion to speak with the father* 2-906
of Amphinomus,” said
Penelope in a solemn voice.
“No, mother! Why dare to take such dire risks?” 2-909
What would you do with Nisus?”
*“I will try my best to persuade
him to consult at Delphi to learn the gods’* 2-912
verdict before he acts:
Invading us, or making peace
as the gods decree. I will beg our old 2-915

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*sage, Aegyptius, to guide
me to King Nisus; they share pangs
of sorrowful deaths of their beloved sons.* 2-918

*If you approve my plan,
then send our herald Medon ahead
to King Nisus, asking whether he would* 2-921
*receive me in reverence
to abide to the gods' judgment,
revealed at the sacred shrine in Delphi."* 2-924

We obeyed to her wise
courageous intention in awe.
King Nisus sent us prompt courteous reply 2-927
that he would summon other
kings of Same and Zacynthus
to Dulichion so that they would also meet with 2-930

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

Queen Penelope, and
take a solemn oath to abide fair
divine verdicts to be heard at Delphi. 2-933

To persuade our enemies
Penelope sailed to Dulichion
with her handmaids and our old sage Aegyptius 2-936
as her aide. Each day she
was away, I felt it longer than
years of waiting in my anxious, listless heart. 2-939

While I was wandering
along shores in a desperate mood,
I spotted our ship. I rushed to the harbour 2-942
to greet my brave wise wife;
Having won the hearts and respect
of our formidable foes, she came back home 2-945

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

safe in tactful triumph.
Soon the fleets of enemy warships
released their blockade of our vital harbours, 2-948
and sailed back to their home ports.’
‘O, how much I revere your wise
wife, Queen Penelope!’ *interrupts Outis*, 2-951
‘She is my revered goddess,
Athena and Artemis combined
into one gracious wise, noble lady! 2-954
She achieved her hopes for
peace in such a sensible way
with her resolute courage, deep wisdom, 2-957
and a loving heart. Tell me
what happened next.’ ‘Our envoy, headed
by the honest seer Halitherses,’ *says* 2-960

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

Odysseus, ‘joined with those
of King Nisus; they went to Delphi
to hear the divine verdicts, as we had sworn 2-963
to abide them. Meanwhile, I
dispatched heralds to Nestor in
Pylos, Menelaus in Sparta, Idomeneus 2-966
in Crete, and to Diomedes
in Argos for urgent military
aids. Telemachus inspired Ithacan 2-969
youths to defend their country.
The expert warrior, Mentor, helped
him fortify our warships and harbours.’ 2-972
‘How did your old comrades-
in-arms respond to your urgent
call for helps?’ *asks Outis*. ‘Nestor offered 2-975

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

to send his envoys to
the kings of Dulichion, Zacynthus,
and Same to warn them not to attack 2-978
Ithaca; he ordered
his son, Pisistratus, to get ready
their powerful fleets of warships 2-981
for crucial battles at sea.
King Idomeneus also promised
that he would send warships to us, although 2-984
he had troubles with wild
revolts within his kingdom.
As for Diomedes, our herald reported 2-987
that he had lost his kingship
of Argos and no one knew where
he was.' 'What about Menelaus?' *asks Outis.* 2-990

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

‘Somehow, he did not see
our herald in person; his aides
told that they would send their response later. 2-993
But nothing came to us,’
says Odysseus in a sombre mood.
‘What verdict from Delphi did you hear, at last?’ 2-996
‘After a month, our seer
Halitherses came back; I saw
the fateful verdict on his grave visage 2-999
before he opened his mouth:
The gods decreed that the suitors’
families must repay us tenfold what 2-1002
their sons had plundered in
our house. When they fulfil it, then I
must leave Ithaca for a life-long exile, 2-1005

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

never to return; that was
the price of peace for Ithacans!’
‘Ah, now I see all in light;’ *says Outis* 2-1008
in dismay, ‘but I think
that gods made awful wrong judgement!’
‘No, my dear Outis, it was a fair verdict; 2-1011
I accepted it as just
punishments of my wrong overdoing.’
‘I am bemused, wise godlike Odysseus. 2-1014
Tell me why you regarded
such a harsh verdict to be fair.’
‘In my belated hindsight,’ *says Odysseus*, 2-1017
‘I should have accepted what
Eurymachus pleaded after I had shot
down Antinous.’ ‘But how could you subdue,’ 2-1020

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

asks Outis, ‘the multitude
of arrogant suitors?’ ‘They were all
in dire panic; I should have judged each suitor 2-1023
to confess what he had done
to my family and estates
in the presence of Queen Penelope 2-1026
and our honest servants
who had observed how each suitor
behaved in the past three years in our house. 2-1029
Those who committed serious
crimes should be appropriately punished,
while others who were innocent should be 2-1032
set free. I repent that
I slew the meek, innocent seer
Leodes who had entreated me for mercy.’ 2-1035

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*Outis looks up with deep
reverence the noble visage
of Odysseus beaming spiritual light.* 2-1038

*At last, he speaks: ‘How did
you set out your endless roving
in this harsh world, leaving your virtuous
beloved wife alone at home, again?’
‘You presumed wrong,’ says Odysseus.
‘What? Did she join you in exile to share
with you dire risks and pains
of homeless wanderings?’ ‘Yes. She
insisted that we should pursue a new life,
saying: “My life in Ithaca
without you will be a living-death,
worse than ignoble death. I will follow* 2-1041 2-1044 2-1047 2-1050

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*you, my beloved Odysseus,
to the end of this world, even
to the depth of unseen netherworld!* 2-1053

*Let us humbly embark
on our soul-searching pilgrimages
to sacred lands to learn the true righteous ways* 2-1056

of our life to the very end!”

*“Your noble sacrifice,” said I
deep from my heart, “revives me to breathe in* 2-1059

*vibrant verve of our fresh
new life. Let us sail to see all
in this wide world. You lead me ahead in thought;* 2-1062

*I will uphold, in act,
your wise will, my Penelope!”*

“I am merely a meek woman; bid me 2-1065

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

whatever I should do;”
said she, blushing in delight, “*I*
will obey you with all my heart and soul!” 2-1068
“*Don’t you recall the contest*
of my bow in our hall?” “*Of course,*
I do; but why do you mention it now?” 2-1071
“*How did you come up with*
such an ingenious idea to
bring the bow to my hands at that crucial 2-1074
moment? I owe my life
to your wise brave decision; it
outshines all my guile that made me resourceful 2-1077
in countless crises at
bloody wars and stormy seas,” said I from
the depth of my heart. “*Desperate to know who* 2-1080

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*the stranger was, I put
myself and him on trial; my heart
felt that the stranger should be my Odysseus;* 2-1083
*Yet my mind insisted on seeking
for concrete proof of the truth.
It wasn't a willful act of wisdom; but* 2-1086
*a wife's insight of love
for her long-lost dear husband," said
she, beaming lovely smile, "as I had put* 2-1089
*the lethal bow in your
triumphant hands, I must be blamed
as much as you for the death of my suitors."* 2-1092
*"No, my dear wife!" said I,
"Neither gods nor men can blame you;
How wisely you have prevented an awful war!"* 2-1095

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*May our love be our shield
from all perils in our new life.
Whereto, do you suggest, we should sail first?”* 2-1098
*“To Pylos: let us pay
our warm respect to the old sage,
Nestor; he may give us vital advice* 2-1101
on our new adventures.”
*“Would you like to lead a simple
farmer’s life in Pylos at peace?” asked I.* 2-1104
*“No, my lord! Just a visit.
Next, let us go to see Helen
and Menelaus back at their home in Sparta;* 2-1107
*Many things I wish to ask
Helen about her bizarre secrets
hidden deep in her heart. Helen and I* 2-1110

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*share a similar fate
of women, accused to be causes
of troubles for insolent, arrogant men.”* 2-1113

*“Helen’s blatant elopement
with Paris sparked the Trojan War;”*

said I, “but Penelope is revered 2-1116
*as the lofty paragon
of wise, prudent, and faithful wife,
in contrast to Helen or Clytemnestra.”* 2-1119

*“Helen is my dear cousin
and best friend: we grew up together.
I know that Helen has been a good noble* 2-1122
*lady with divine beauty
and lofty gracious integrity,
not an immoral wanton woman, at all!* 2-1125

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*I cannot trust the wily
Atreidae's absurd accusation
that Helen eloped with Paris to Troy,"* 2-1128
said Penelope in stern
indignation. *"I feel so, too,
as your insight presages; but I don't know* 2-1131
*what happened in such
perplexing confusion. Have you
any clues?"* said I. *"Why did Paris sail across* 2-1134
*vast seas from Troy to Mycenae?
He did not come with powerful
Trojan armada to attack Sparta,* 2-1137
and abduct Helen by force!"
said Penelope. *"No! Paris sailed
in a single ship, I heard, presumably* 2-1140

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*to visit King Tyndareus
as an emissary of his father,
King Priam. He landed at Helos to be
escorted by Menelaus
to see Tyndareus in Sparta,
I surmise.” “According to what I learned
much later from my father,
however, Paris came to visit
Agamemnon in Mycenae as his guest:
He held grand festivals
and feasts to entertain Paris
for many weeks, inviting Tyndaerus, Leda,
their twin sons, Icarus,
and other nobles to celebrate
the visit of the handsome prince from Troy,”*

2-1143

2-1146

2-1149

2-1152

2-1155

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

said Penelope with
resolute conviction.’ ‘What? Had
Agamemnon and Paris known each other 2-1158
for so many years before
the Trojan War broke out?’ *interrupts*
Outis, stunned in shocking astonishment. 2-1161
‘Yes, they knew! Agamemnon
managed to persuade Paris
to visit Menelaus in Helos 2-1164
on his way returning
to Troy; while Paris sojourned at
his palace as an honoured guest, Menelaus 2-1167
sailed away to Crete abruptly,
leaving Paris to be entertained
by Helen in his absence; his guileful 2-1170

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

hoax excuse was to attend
his grandfather's funeral in Crete.
Insightful Penelope pointed out to me 2-1173
how the vile and scheming
Atreidae ensnared poor Helen
as a tragic victim of their awful 2-1176
intrigues: "*Well I know*
that Helen had been helplessly
lamenting her ill-matched dejected marriage 2-1179
to Menelaus, imposed
on her by Tyndareus under
Agamemnon's wily manipulations of threat 2-1182
and bribery. I feel
the dire miseries and utter agonies
of Helen deep in my heart as a woman; 2-1185

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*She has been a gracious
lady with a kind heart and divine
beauty. Such a beauty caused her awful* 2-1188
*horrors when she was at her
blooming tender age; she was abducted
and raped by Theseus, the elderly king* 2-1191
*of Athens. Although her brave
brothers, Castor and Polydeuces
rescued her later, Helen never had* 2-1194
*recovered her true self
from the dire atrocious experience,”*
said Penelope with heartfelt sympathy. 2-1197
*“I understand your deep
true friendships for Helen;” said I,*
“The cunning Atreidae’s accusation that 2-1200

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*Paris had abducted Helen,
was their sly hoax pretext to incite
the Achaean chieftains to invade Troy.* 2-1203

*But why would Menelaus
have pandered his noble wife Helen
to elope with Paris?” “I think that vile
ambitious Agamemnon* 2-1206

*might have persuaded, or even
compelled cowardly Menelaus to mislead
dire Helen in despair,”* 2-1209

said Penelope in a pensive tone.
*“You have convinced me that we must visit
Helen and Menelaus* 2-1212

*in Sparta at all cost; I will probe
Menelaus to reveal the real purposes* 2-1215

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*of the vile Trojan War:
We destroyed splendid Troy in ruins;
But at what costs! So many innocent
people and brave heroes
perished in Troy. But for what goals?
To imprison Helen back to Menelaus's
dire dungeon? The shameful end
of wily arrogant Agamemnon,
butchered by his treacherous wife, mocks at
the awful tragedy
of our vain, absurd, and utterly
meaningless victory!" said I in agony.
"I will persuade Helen,"
said she, "to impart me real reasons
why she had to leave her home in Helos,*

2-1218

2-1221

2-1224

2-1227

2-1230

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

<i>and took such bold and risky ventures to the foreign land, Troy, with the newly met stranger-guest, Paris.</i>	2-1233
<i>After our crucial visit of Helen and Menelaus in Sparta, let us sail to Crete; Your friendly comrade- in-arms, King Idomeneus, might reveal to us his private secrets about the homecoming of Helen and Menelaus after seven years of hard, harsh wanderings since they left the fallen Troy to return to Sparta. I heard that when they landed in Crete, Idomeneus provided them with vital helps to restore</i>	2-1236 2-1239 2-1242 2-1245

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

their power to rule Sparta.

Did you know that Helen had loved

Idomeneus the most among her suitors?”

2-1248

“No. How interesting!

I love to see my good old friend,

Idomeneus in Crete. Furthermore, there are

2-1251

many cultural heritages

in Crete for us to see and learn:

Crete had been the ancient cradle of our

2-1254

Civilization; let us

sail to Crete after

we visited Sparta. You lead me with brilliant ideas;

2-1257

I will follow you with

resolute actions!” Thus I exclaimed

with heartfelt enthusiasm. “May I entreat you

2-1260

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*my ardent wishes?” said she,
beaming a subtle lovely smile.
“Yes, of course, my beloved wise Penelope!”* 2-1263
*“I wish to visit Troy
with you, my dear brave Odysseus,
as humble pilgrims of peace for the whole* 2-1266
*humanity!” “What? To visit
Troy?” said I in surprise, “What do
you want to do in the dangerous ruins* 2-1269
*of Troy?” “I want to honour
all victims of the Trojan War:
Unknown innocent people as well as* 2-1272
*Achaean and Trojan
heroes who fell in Troy. How much
I wish to visit the tombs of King Priam,* 2-1275

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*Hector, and Paris to pay
my humble heartfelt homage to
these noble human beings. If we find* 2-1278
*in the ruins of once such
splendid Troy anything we can help
the Trojans recover from devastation,* 2-1281
*let us devote ourselves
to the task of reparation,”*
said Penelope in a resolute lofty stance. 2-1284
*“It is extremely hard
and dangerous task; but if you
believe that is what we must undertake,* 2-1287
*I will certainly join with
you to pursue it to the very end!”*
She embraced me passionately in delight, 2-1290

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

and said, beaming lovely smile:
*“Thank you, my Odysseus! After
Troy, let us sail to Egypt, the mystic* 2-1293
*land by the Nile; I wish
to learn their sacred old wisdom!”*
“How deep you read my mind;” said I, “even 2-1296
*before I grasp what I
want to do. Let us set off
new adventures to learn human nature* 2-1299
to the very end!” Thus we
breathed in a new meaningful life
through our endless exile.’ ‘I marvel at,’ 2-1302
*says Outis, ‘how you turned
the anguish of homeless wanderings
into exciting quests for our true nature.* 2-1305

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

How did you fare with
the suitors' families? Did they
also obey the gods' decree, repaying 2-1308
their dues and making peace
with Ithaca?' 'Yes, they obeyed
the verdict, and eventually paid ten-fold 2-1311
what their sons had devoured
in our house. When we shared them with
Ithacans in good spirit of our common-wealth, 2-1314
I got aboard my swift ship
with Penelope; we bade a warm
farewell to our people. Weeping like forlorn 2-1317
children losing their dear
old parents, the whole Ithacans
gathered on seashores to pay their loving 2-1320

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

tribute to us. *“Farewell,”*
said I, *“my dear worthy Ithacans!*
May you all flourish in the good life at peace. 2-1323
Be faithful and help each
other to overcome all hardships.
Be brave and loyal to protect your homeland.” 2-1326
Then to Telemachus
I spoke: *“Steer your ship of the state*
with prudence, wisdom, courage, and humble 2-1329
dedication with all
your heart and soul; be a gentle
faithful friend to your people, and a loyal 2-1332
servant for their commonwealth.”
“I shall keep your words in my heart
and put them to rule my life and actions,” 2-1335

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

said Telemachus in tears.

*“Our beloved son,” said Penelope,
“do not worry about us wandering over
vast unknown seas; but pray
that we may reach mystic harbours
to learn human nature to the very end!”*

2-1338

2-1341

*“O dear mother mine, you
speak like a wise gracious goddess;
Embrace me to uplift my troubled spirit.”*

2-1344

I took the helm of our ship
and steered it at immense deep sea.
How good it was to breathe in vibrant sea-breezes!

2-1347

The vast horizon enthralled
us in mysterious splendours.
A faint figure of landmass appeared afar

2-1350

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

like a giant leviathan,
swimming amid the enchanting sea.
“*Is that land Pylos?*” asked Penelope 2-1353
in excitements. “*No. It’s*
Dulichion,” said I, smiling. “*What?*
Why do you head there?” asked she in surprise. 2-1356
“*I intend to make peace*
with King Nisus in person,” said I.
She gently hugged and kissed me in delight.’ 2-1359
‘What a bold brinkmanship!’
interrupts Outis, ‘you dared to
visit another Cyclops’ land with your 2-1362
gentle wife? How did King
Nisus receive you?’ ‘In a surprise,
he spoke: “*What did bring both of you to visit* 2-1365

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*Dulichion, great hero
Odysseus and wise, noble Queen
Penelope?” “I am on the way of* 2-1368
*my life-long exile,” said I,
“to abide by the gods’ decree. I apologize
for my overdoing, and want to make peace* 2-1371
*with you, King Nisus, and
with other suitors’ families
who grieve over the loss of their beloved sons.”* 2-1374
*“Man of integrity,
resourceful Odysseus! I revere
your noble conscience and intrepid guts.* 2-1377
*We do mourn our lost sons;”
said he, “but I think that the gods
punished their insolence by your bold hands.* 2-1380

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*All of us worried about
what course of actions we could take,
if you would refuse to obey the gods’* 2-1383
*verdict. Now, I wonder
why Queen Penelope came with
you to revisit us.” “I’m a modest* 2-1386
*wife,” said Penelope
beaming gentle smile, “following
my beloved husband wherever he leads* 2-1389
me with all my heart and soul.”
*“What? You have decided to join with
your husband in hard, harsh life-long exile?”* 2-1392
cried he out, stunned in awe.
Deeply moved, King Nisus held a grand
feast for reconciliation and farewell. 2-1395

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

Many prominent families
of the suitors came from Same
and Zacynthus as well as in Dulichion 2-1398
to meet with us. When we
restored our old goodwill, I spoke:
“Thank you for your kind amity to me 2-1401
and my wife. I wonder
how the wooing of my wife by your
sons as unsolicited bold suitors came about. 2-1404
Her righteous father, King
Icarus, had never invited
anyone to marry her while I was far away 2-1407
for a long time from my home.”
Then King Nisus spoke: *“Antinous*
came here, and lured our young noblemen to 2-1410

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

Ithaca to revel
with him. We would never dare to
approve our sons to court your noble wife 2-1413
while you were away from home.
I was dismayed why the Ithacans
allowed Antinous and his gangs to plunder 2-1416
your palace, and to disgrace
their noble queen as if she were
a wanton woman who flirted with heady lads.” 2-1419
“In my absence,” said I,
“Eupithes, the father of Antinous,
and Polybus, the father of Eurymachus, 2-1422
gained wealth and power in
Ithaca; they might have vied that
their sons to be the king of Ithaca, 2-1425

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

instead of Telemachus.

I wish to know whether someone

instigated you to invade Ithaca, 2-1428

or was it by your own will

to avenge your dead sons?” Then King

Nisus spoke in grave mood: “*I was very much* 2-1431

reluctant to make such

a risky and futile invasion;

First of all, even if we could kill you, 2-1434

none of our dead sons could

come back home alive. Furthermore, I

was keenly aware of your godlike power 2-1437

of superb military tactics

and the danger of counter-attacks

with formidable armed forces of Nestor 2-1440

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*and Idomeneus; they could
easily wipe out all of us.
Someone had instigated our influential* 2-1443
*nobles to avenge their dead
sons so well that they threatened to
revolt against me unless I dared to lead* 2-1446
*such a massive invasion
of Ithaca.” Then an elder among
the guests spoke: “I know the man who instigated* 2-1449
*us to invade. He is
a refugee from Ithaca. He claimed
that his son was one of the slain suitors.”* 2-1452
Promptly King Nisus ordered
to fetch the man under arrest.
When he was brought in, I cried out in wrath: 2-1455

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

*“This is sly Eupithes,
the father of Antinous, who
lured your sons to revel with him in my house!”* 2-1458

Indignant King Nisus
and his enraged guests dragged Eupithes
out, and stoned the evil traitor to death.’ 2-1461

‘Now, I see all in clear
light;’ *interrupts Outis*, ‘evil
intrigues behind the arrogant absurd 2-1464

courting of your helpless
wife by insolent gangs, pretending
as unsolicited suitors to plunder 2-1467

your estates and usurp
your throne. Your audacious visit
of King Nisus was crucial to reconcile 2-1470

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

and restore amity with
the grieving suitors' families
by revealing the vile cunning intrigues. 2-1473

Please tell me what happened
next in your eventful adventures.'
'King Nisus and his royal family, 2-1476

the nobles, and many common
people escorted us with touching
amity. When we got on our ship, King 2-1479

Nisus came up to us,
and spoke: "*Resourceful Odysseus,*
I will regard young King Telemachus 2-1482
dear to me as my son was!"

"*Thank you, wise King Nisus. Help him,*"
said I, "*in whatever ways you can do* 2-1485

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

for all to prosper in peace.”

Then he knelt humbly before my wife,
and said: “*Wise gracious Queen Penelope!*

2-1488

*You have saved us from dire
traps of vile, gory, and pointless war.
May you accomplish your lofty adventures
to pursue the profound
mystery of human nature.*

2-1491

*I will pray to you as the merciful
goddess who saved our life.”*

2-1494

We bade farewell in a kindred spirit.

Finally, we set our sails towards Pylos.

2-1497

Fresh, vibrant breaths of sea
inspired us new hopes. The sun
set on the immense glittering water.

2-1500

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

Penelope and I gazed
at it rapt deep in a blissful
trance. Countless twinkling stars appeared in 2-1503
the boundless clear night sky.
Gently, Penelope sang for me
heavenly songs of love with ardent passion. 2-1506
The ship of our common
destiny sailed through the enchanting
night to greet a beauteous dawn of new hopes.’ 2-1509
‘O my poet sublime,
Odysseus! How deep you move my soul;
In you, I find my new Muse!’ says *Homer-Outis*, 2-1512
exalting the poetic
elegance as well as wondrous
new things revealed by Odysseus’s recounting. 2-1515

Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope

*Hence ventures the earnest
bard Homer-Outis deep into
his inner realm of boundless imaginations.*

2-1518

To be continued in:

***Human Causes of the Trojan War:
Inner Journey into Human Nature {2}***

Epilogue

[A] The dialogues between the character, '*Homer-Outis*' and the character '*Odysseus*' in this fictional narrative are mere imaginations; yet, the author has tried them to be based on the relevant classic Greek texts in English translations to the best of his ability as much as they may be workable with the following references:

(A-1). *The Odyssey of Homer*: translated by Murray, A. (1919), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard Univ. Press.
The Odyssey of Homer: translated by Fitzgerald, R. (1961), Doubleday & Company; and
The Odyssey of Homer: translated by Fagles, R. (1996), Penguin Books.

(A-2). *The Iliad of Homer*: translated by Murray, A. (1924), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard Univ. Press;
The Iliad of Homer: translated by Lattimore, R. (1951), University of Chicago Press; and
The Iliad of Homer: translated by Fagles, R (1990), Penguin Books.

(A-3) *Hesiod, The Homeric Hymns and Homerica*: translated by Evelyn-White, H. G. (1914), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard Univ. Press

(A-4) *Early Greek Myth* by Gantz, T. (1993), Johns Hopkins University Press.

[B] The relevance between the *Book 1* of the present fiction and the above references may be summarized as follows:

(B-1) Homer-Outis's recitation of an episode from his *Odyssey* to the unknown godlike sage (later revealed as the shade of Odysseus) {from the line 1-84 to the line 1-317 in this work} relies on the breathtaking episode of the crucial contest of stringing and shooting the old bow of the absent King Odysseus, imposed by Queen Penelope to her suitors in Book 21 of the *Odyssey* in the references (A-1).

(B-2) Homer-Outis's narration of the gist of his entire *Odyssey* and Odysseus's brief comments {from line 1-420 to line 1-1125} rely on *The Odyssey* in (A-1).

(B-3) Homer-Outis's conjecture about the life of his revered elder bard Homer-Meles, the bard of the *Iliad*, {from line 1-1126 to line 1-1153} is based on *Homerica* in reference (A-3).

(B-4) Homer-Outis's narration of a pithy gist of the *Iliad* {from line 1-1177 to line 1-1397} relies on the texts of the *Iliad* in (A-2).

(B-5) Homer-Outis's recitation of the Achilles's consent to Patroclus {from line 1-1288 to line 1-1302} relies on the episode in Book 16 of *The Iliad* in (A-2).

[C] The relevance between the *Book 2* of the present fiction and the above references may be summarized as follows:

(C-1) The character *Odysseus*'s story how he met with his future wife Penelope {from line 2-413 to line 2-556 } is imagined from the relevant Greek legends, compiled in the extensive collection: *Early Greek Myth* by Timothy Gantz in (A-4).

(C-2) The *Odysseus*'s conjecture why Tyndareus abdicated his throne to Menelaus {from line 2-537 to line 2-591} is made up of the legends compiled in (A-4).

(C-3) The character *Homer-Outis*'s citation of Helen's lament at the funeral of Hector {from line 2-678 to line 2-692} relies on the text in Book 24 of *The Iliad* in (A-2).

[D] All other episodes in this narrative are purely fictional imaginations for which the author is unable to provide any reference, nor to claim them as if they were historical facts, at all: Especially the alleged massive invasion of Ithaca, attempted by the angry families of the suitors slain by Odysseus for revenge, Penelope's wise diplomacy to

avoid such a grave catastrophic war, the life-long exile of Odysseus, and Penelope's joining with Odysseus in exile are all imaginary inventions that have been essential to unfold and sustain the present fictional narrative: ***Inner Journey into Human Nature.***

(D-1) The episode of Laertes and Odysseus {from line 2-160 to line 2-275} in the present fiction is radically different from that in Book 24 of *The Odyssey* in (A-1).

(D-2) All other episodes in *Book 2* of the present fiction {from line 2-780 to 2-1509} are imaginary inventions that are radically different from that in Book 24 of *The Odyssey* in (A-1) and that in *Telegony of the Epic Cycle* in (A-3).

[E] The present fictional narrative is written in syllabic tercet stanzas: The *Book 1* sings in the descending tercet: 10-8-6 syllables, while the Book 2 sings in the ascending tercet: 6-8-10 syllables. It is not a traditional English poem with the proper accentual prosody. Nevertheless, this strange syllabic writing is what its author could try best in his pidgin English to sing of the lofty ideas and sublime spirit of his revered ancient Greek poets who have inspired and nurtured him.

- [F] The author wishes to acknowledge and appreciate deep inspirations and soul-searching influences by *The Divine Comedy* of Dante (1265 – 1321). The adaptation of the tercet stanzas in his humble works has been inspired by the terza rima of *La Commedia* of Dante. Although the sublime spirituality, the beauty of the exquisite poetic form, and the deeply moving music of *La Commedia* of Dante are high above far beyond his reach. Yet, they inspire him like the mysterious spiritual stars shining in the inner heaven.
- [G] The cover photograph of this book was taken in Nova Scotia, Canada, by the author.

Art Aeon

